

OUR SCHOOL

by

Sudie (Longmire) Carter

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Sudie (Longmire) Carter

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PREFACE

In presenting this narrative history of our school, all memories, so far as possible, have been verified. All events, activities, and incidents of which there is any available record have been either quoted or indexed. Properly speaking, this is the intimate history of only one school, yet admittedly, it has also to be more or less the story of the progress of the educational system in Texas, as well as the development of all the community schools adjoining the district. The names of many people have been mentioned, always in kindness, and with highest respect. To all the early day settlers, teachers, and pupils who have assisted with memories, to all State and County officials who were so helpful in finding records, to our own present day teachers who have cooperated so generously, the sincere appreciation and deep gratitude of the author is extended. This narrative would have been impossible without their wholehearted cooperation and assistance.

Sudie (Longmire) Carter

January, 1953

CHAPTER I

THE COVE

Before it is possible to understand the progress of any institution, it is necessary to know something of the background and conditions that contributed to its establishment and growth. Therefore, a brief review of the obstacles confronting the pioneers of Texas in the establishment of an educational system seems fitting, before attempting the history of the Evant school.

The essential need of some form of teaching youth has been recognized in all ages and by all nations. From the very beginning of the Republic of Texas, there was exhibited by its citizenship, and especially by its leaders, a strong sentiment for the establishment of some means of support for the maintenance of a public school system. The Constitution of the Republic of Texas contained provision for such a system; but, as is usually the case in the establishment of a new government, so many other essential items required attention that little was accomplished in an educational way.

When Mirabeau B. Lamar, later known as "the father of education in Texas," became President in 1839, the first really forward step was taken in that the legislature allotted certain lands from the Public Domain to each county for school purposes.¹ At its meeting, early in 1840, an act was passed, approved, and signed by David S. Kaufman, Speaker of the House, David D. Burnett, President of the Senate, and Mirabeau B. Lamar, President of the Republic. Section I appointed the Chief Justice and two Associate Justices of each county to be ex-officio Board of School Commissioners, with full authority to act in all public school matters. Section 7 of the same act gives this commission authority to examine all persons desiring to teach school, and to grant certificates of qualification, after satisfactory evidence of good moral character has been presented, provided they are regular graduates of some college or university. Applicants must also furnish evidence of ability to teach reading, writing, English grammar, arithmetic, and geography.² Little else was accomplished. The Constitution of the State of Texas, upon her annexation to the United States in 1845, provided for the establishment of free schools, instructing the legislature to set aside not less than one-tenth of the annual revenue of the State, derivable from taxation, as a perpetual fund

¹Ralph W. Steen, *The Texas Story* (Austin: The Steck Co., 1948), p. 157.

²H. P. N. Gammel, *Laws of Texas*.

for the support of such schools. Still little was accomplished, and it was not until 1854, under the able and enthusiastic leadership of Governor E. M. Pease, assisted by ex-President Lamar, that a definite sum of \$2,000,000 out of \$10,000,000 received from the sale of public land to the United States was set aside as a permanent school fund. The same act by the state legislature created an available fund from the accrued interest, to be distributed annually to each county on a per capita basis.³ Also, other land grants were now allotted, and from this time there was steady growth of the educational system. In 1856, an act was passed by the legislature requiring certificates of qualification before a teacher could draw public money.⁴ In 1866, the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction was created by legislative act, and a State Board of Education, composed of the Governor, Secretary of State, and Comptroller of Public Accounts, named. In 1867, when J. W. Throckmorton was governor, by legislative act, all counties were authorized to divide themselves into school districts, to be numbered, recognized by number, and to hold elections in each district for the election of three trustees, to have supervision in their respective districts.⁵ In April, 1869, Coryell County, by legislative directive, was divided into five Justice precincts. Each of these precincts was divided into three sub-school districts, numbered 1, 2, and 3. "Langford's Cove" was in Precinct 3, in Sub-school District 2 of that precinct. This sub-school district embraced all land in Precinct 3 west of Cow House Creek. Trustees elected were: Asa Langford, A. H. Williams, and Coffee Basham.⁶ Some time later, Sub-school District 2, in Precinct 3, was divided into two common school districts known as Cove district 24 and Cow House district 25. Still little progress was made, and very few schools immediately established.

Under the Constitution of 1876, in addition to all previous grants, one-half of the remaining Public Domain, together with all monies received from the sale of same, one dollar from each poll tax, and one-fourth of all occupational taxes were set aside for a perpetual school fund.⁷ In all, about 42,549,400 acres of the Texas Public Domain were set aside for this purpose. This Constitution also provided for local taxation, and in 1883 an Ad Valorem tax of .20 was added, which was raised to .35 in 1918, when provision was made for free textbooks. Since that date, state support of public education in Texas has been greatly augmented by addition

³Ralph W. Steen, *The Texas Story* (Austin: The Steck Co., 1948), p. 229.

⁴U. T. Bulletin, Sec. 8, p. 335.

⁵U. T. Bulletin, Sec. 1, p. 460.

⁶Police Court Records, Coryell County, Book A.

⁷Ralph W. Steen, *The Texas Story* (Austin: The Steck Co., 1948), p. 229.

of portions of revenue from gross receipts of sales of gasoline, cigarettes, and some other commodities.

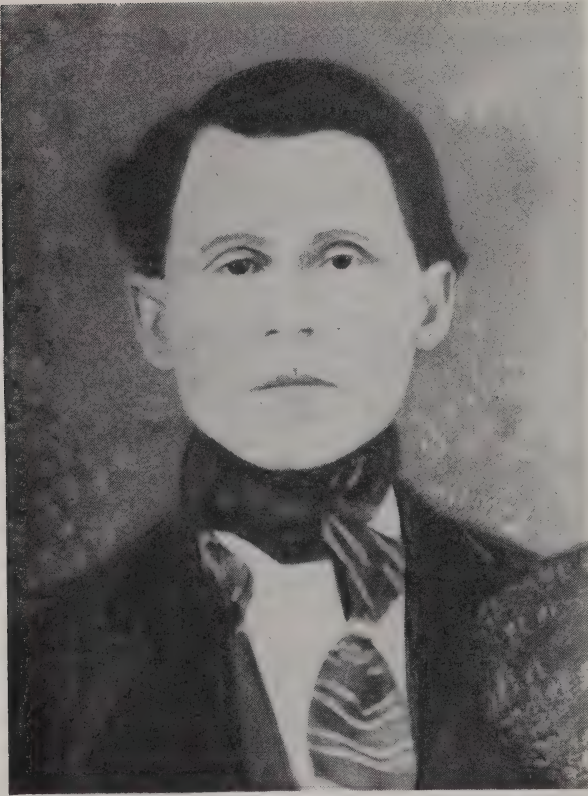
Until recently, Texas' rank in education was very low; in fact, in the 1925 surveys, Texas ranked from thirty-fifth to forty-second among the states. But in the 1951 survey, she was classed among the fifteen leading states.

The first census taken in the state, that of 1850, shows the entire population to be only 212,592, while that of 1950 was 7,711,194. Thus, it is seen that in the comparatively short time of one hundred years this great state made phenomenal growth in population; and, hence, there is the ever-increasing need of expansion and improvement of its educational facilities. Also, it can be comprehended how in the year 1855—just ten years after annexation to the United States—its vast domain was little more than primeval. However, even at this early date, the story of its varied climate, its numerous opportunities, and above all its more than ordinary beauty had penetrated the other states of the Union. It was no unusual sight to see wagon trains containing all the household goods of numerous families, together with whatever stock of cattle and horses they might possess, moving steadily into the interior and uninhabited regions of the State.

In the late afternoon of a warm spring day in 1855, Asa Langford pitched camp near the center of a lovely valley, surrounded by almost unbroken hills, except to the northeast, where it expanded to the breaks of Cow House Creek. This valley was an ideal place to camp, as it was traversed by a small but water-filled creek, furnishing plenty of clear water, both for family use and for the herds brought along. Also, the grass was saddle-stirrup high, luscious, and providing plenty of feed for the hungry stock. Stately trees grew along the banks of the stream, affording both shade and protection from the sometime raids of the redman, and occasionally the renegade white. In fact, the situation was so ideal that Langford decided to make this valley his permanent home, and on August 15, 1855, bought his camp site, 320 acres, out of the E. C. Glover survey, from M. G. Hall, paying \$112 for the entire half section.⁸ This acreage, with attachments, would today be valued at more than a million dollars.

While making camp on the afternoon of his arrival, the valley seemed so deserted and still that Langford thought he was the first to discover this paradise, but the next morning he told his family that they must have neighbors as he had distinctly heard a cow bell. This was true, as two families, those of J. A. Carter

⁸Deed Records, Vol. H, Coryell County, p. 206.



Asa Langford.

and Frederick Bookerman, had preceded him by a few months.⁹

The first thing necessary in the establishment of a pioneer community was to provide some way of utilizing the natural resources, to build homes for families, shelter for stock; to repair their meager tools for cultivation of the land; to convert raw grains, such as corn and wheat, into edible meal and flour; to produce fiber, cotton, wool; build spinning wheels and looms; weave cloth for clothing; and to secure other necessities of life, by their own efforts.

To this end, Langford early installed a saw mill to saw logs into rawhide lumber for the building of houses, a grist mill to convert corn into meal, a mill to make flour from wheat, a shop built of logs for blacksmithing, a store to provide such essentials as brown sugar, coffee (which had to be baked in an oven before using), tobacco, snuff, gunpowder, lead, a little calico, and possibly a few other necessary articles.

⁹Joseph Carroll McConnell, *The West Texas Frontier* (Jacksboro: Privately printed, 1933), Vol. I, p. 183.

This was the beginning of "Langford's Cove," located in the northwestern corner of Coryell County, which county had been organized the previous year, 1854. The settlement of the Cove was slow, because of the still frequent Indian raids and other hazardous conditions that confronted the pioneer. However, a few families, four or five, had pre-empted land in, or near, the Cove, and the hum and activity of human beings began to be recognized in this new land.

Chapter II

SCHOOLS FROM 1855 TO 1879

In 1855 or 1856, the families of James Witcher, Dr. Williams, John Willis, John Hurst, and Sam Sneed, Sr., settled in the valley across the mountain from Langford's Cove, three miles south of the present site of Evant.¹⁰ In order to accommodate the few children from both sides of the mountain, a brush arbor was built just north of Gholson Gap, and a teacher, Prof. Hazzard, was secured for three weeks in the summer to teach the nine pupils attending.¹¹ Sometime later, a small log building was erected on top of the mountain, west of the Cove, near the old Brooks' Spring, in which at least one term of a few weeks was taught. The log building burned, but some traces of where it stood still remain. There is no record of these schools, except in the memory of the living descendants of some of the pupils who attended. The mother of the Alex Williams family, whose name before marriage was Mary Elizabeth Sneed, attended both schools. Also, the older Langford children, with a few others from the west side of the mountain, attended. There is no available information relative to the teacher's salary, but it is presumed that the parents shared liberally their jerked beef, wild honey, sorghum molasses, sole leather, and shoe pegs. These necessities were, at that time, of far greater value than money. All the educational requirements of a teacher were to "read, 'rite and figger."

Because of the War between the States, there was now, for a period of a few years, a feeling of great unrest and uncertainty which blanketed the entire nation, and all progress in culture and education came to a standstill in the more remote places. In "Langford's Cove," as in most of Texas, it became a struggle to hold the land and to provide the essentials of life. No time or opportunity was available to teach the things found in books, but only that most important of all lessons, self-preservation.

No memory of any further educational effort in the "Cove" is found until the year 1872, when another brush arbor was constructed near the sawmill, which was located on Langford's branch, about

¹⁰Joseph Carroll McConnell, *The West Texas Frontier* (Jacksboro: Privately printed, 1933), Vol. I, p. 184.

¹¹Coryell County Deed Records, Vol. Y, p. 543.

three hundred yards east of the old Evant to Lampasas road and in front of the saddle shop owned by Jack Edwards. Andy Hunter was the teacher. "Aunt" Mollie Langford and possibly "Aunt" Nan Brooks, daughters of "Uncle" Tommy Winters, were pupils. For books, "Aunt" Mollie had a "Blueback Speller" and a fourth reader. All books were provided by the parents. The usual summer term of three or perhaps four weeks was taught here. There is no record, or memory, of either the certification or salary of Hunter, but it is known that he was a well-educated man for his time and that he emphasized vigorously the prescribed curriculum of "Readin', 'Ritin' and 'Rithmetic."

The next summer, a term of school was taught in a little stockade built of slabs of sawed timber. The slabs stood upright, with a roof of boards, also of native timber. Located some fifty steps south of the present W. C. Brooks homestead (see map), this stockade was normally used for blacksmithing and horseshoeing. A Mr. Moody was the teacher and taught perhaps six weeks. His successor was Horatio M. Barnett, who taught, perhaps, more than one term, as the following information is found on page 355 in Volume I of the Deed Records of Coryell County, dated July 21, 1875:

To Horatio M. Barnett from Asa Langford, four acres of land situated and beginning:

180 yards N. 71 W. from south-east corner of E. C. Glover survey, No. 68.

Thence N. 19 E. 40 yds. N.E. corner.

Thence N. 71 W. 140 yds. N.W. corner.

Thence S. 19 W. 140 yds. S.W. corner.

Thence S. 71 E. 140 yds. S.E. corner.

Thence N. 19 E. 100 yds. to place of beginning.

In consideration of one dollar in hand paid, to have, and to hold all and singular, the premises above mentioned, unto H. M. Barnett, his heirs and assigns forever, on the following conditions, to wit:

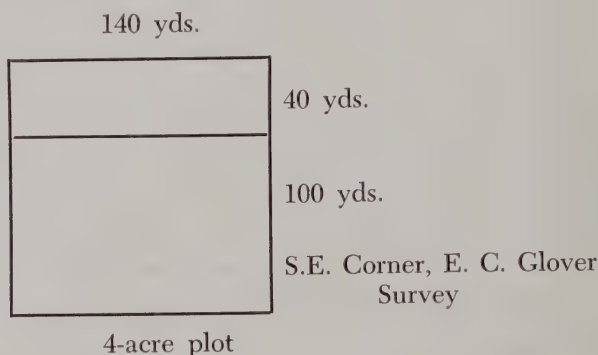
Said land is solely for literary school purposes, and to be controlled by said H. M. Barnett, provided, said Barnett, builds a commodious school house on said land. But, in case the surrounding community builds said school house, said Barnett, shall make deed conveying said land and improvements, to said community, to be forever used for school purposes.

Because of weather and road conditions, long distances to and from school, hazards of Indian ambushes, and lack of any mode of travel but walking, there had been no winter term of school, only the short summer session. However, more families began to find their way into the Cove, and the ever-increasing need of a permanent school building became more pressing. The teacher,

Barnett, seems to have been the leader in crystallizing the determination to meet this need.

Since few records were kept, it is difficult to trace accurately all the transactions relative to the operation of the schools, but as many incidents as possible have been authenticated.

In Deed Records of Coryell County, under date of October 15, 1877, is found the record of a warranty deed, given by Horatio M. Barnett and A. J. (Jane) Barnett, his wife, to S. B. Raby, County Judge of Coryell County, and his successors in office, for the same four-acre plot of land, described in the deed given by Asa Langford to Horatio M. Barnett for school purposes.



It is a fact that in 1878 a one-room rawhide lumber building was erected on the northwest corner of the four-acre plot, ready for occupancy in the fall of 1879. Six and one-half terms were taught there.

Lucindy Williams, now Mrs. H. J. Kreid, Sr., began her school life there, her curriculum, the "Blueback Speller." She was next promoted to McGuffey's first reader, then as sessions passed, to third and fourth, with always the "Blueback Speller." Lastly, the most exciting of all, geography, with its colored maps, showing name, location, and size of the various countries of the earth. What a wonderful revelation to these isolated children, to catch this glimpse of the outside world!

Naming as many families, arriving in the Cove, as come to mind at the moment are those of Tommy Winters, Sr., Billie Winters, Evan Brooks, Dr. Sawyer, D. W. White, W. N. White, Sam Enochs, J. L. Singleton, Alex Williams, J. H. Dixon, Dr. H. McNeill, I. W. Seale, R. M. Hill, John Carter, Frank Gholson, A. Wurts, Dr. Griggs, and W. D. Blackburn.

Due to the usual confusion following wars, three of which—Texas Revolution, Mexican War with the United States, and War

between the States—had recently engaged the settlers of Texas, little had been accomplished in an educational way. Although mention, and, to some degree, provision, had been made for a state-supported public school system in both the Constitution of the Republic and the State Constitution of 1845, still public schools in the state were comparatively few. The high school developed without special encouragement from the state, the first being established at Brenham in 1875, but there was no state recognition until the Rural High School Law of 1911. The State Board of Education, too, seems to have been inadequate, as a new board, composed of nine members appointed by the Governor for six-year overlapping terms, was provided by Constitutional amendment in 1928.¹² From this time, a few early records are available, to corroborate the memories of those early settlers who have contributed



J. H. Dixon.
Never late to school.

¹²Ralph W. Steen, *The Texas Story* (Austin: The Steck Co., 1948), pp. 369-371.

to this history. One record found in Records of County Commissioners' Court, Hamilton County, recites that on the thirteenth day of September, 1879, a contract was signed between the trustees of District 24, W. W. White, A. J. Gilbreath, and Evan Brooks, with J. H. Dixon as teacher. This contract called for a five-month term at a salary of \$14.00 per month, with an additional \$1.00 per month for any child under eight or over fourteen years of age. Dixon had had previous school teaching experience before moving into the Cove in 1879. Some two years before, in 1877, he, with his wife and one child, arrived in Central Texas, having made the trip from Alabama with one wagon containing all his worldly possessions and drawn by a yoke of oxen. In the Blue Ridge country, on the H. J. Carter ranch, he found an empty log cabin, with dirt floor and fireplace. He secured permission to move in, and later contracted to teach school at West Point, eight and one-half miles away, "as the crow flies." He had no mode of transportation but to walk, which he did, to and from school each day. Sometimes the snow was boot-top deep, and frequently he found it necessary to swim Cow House Creek, but his record was: Never late one moment, to school.

This term of school was taught in the new plank building erected near the present school plant. Dixon was followed in 1880 by H. M. Barnett, in 1882 by a Mr. O'Keefe, in 1883 by a Mr. Carmackle, in 1884 by a Mr. King, and in 1885 by a Mr. Richards. Diligent search has been made for records or memories of these terms, but no further information concerning them has been found. Any chapters covering this period would be based solely upon imagination. Richards was followed in 1886 and 1887 by Marion Long.

Owing to the wild and untamed conditions that existed at this time, every boy grew up knowing that it was his responsibility to look after himself. He didn't lean on anybody, resented coddling, and any suggestion to discipline him was intolerable. It was in this highly individualistic atmosphere that Marion Long opened his first term of school. He walked steadily to the home-made table, behind which was a rawhide bottomed chair, and stood, momentarily, looking straight into the eyes of his problems.

With a flick of his right hand, quicker than sight, he swept away the frock of his coat tail, and laid a .44 Colt on the table, with this statement: "We are going to have order in this school." He then announced these rules: "Proper decorum in the building. No fighting, or loud profanity, on the school grounds. No courting at all."

One pupil, Simon Winters, was curious to know just how far the teacher would go in backing up these rules. so with premeditated deliberation, he escorted a young lady to the school grounds.



Marion Long,
who demanded order in the school,
and got it.

He was immediately called to "taw." Under the circumstances, Simon took his whipping like a gentleman, then promised the teacher, "When I grow up, I am going to whip you."

The wheels of time continued to spin, twenty-five or more years passed, Marion Long's hair was white, and Simon had grown into a highly respected and influential citizen before these men met again. Marion removed his coat, rolled up his sleeves, and reminded Simon of his promise. Laying his arm across Long's shoulder, Simon said, "All I have against you now is that you gave me too little of that I needed so badly."

It was during Long's second term, 1887, that the school building burned, and the term had to be completed in the Dr. H. McNeill house, located at the present site of the Evant Brooks home. Losing their building was a major disaster, but the type of citizenship that inhabited Langford's Cove didn't know the meaning of the word defeat. Immediately, plans began to mature to build another, this time to be constructed of stone. Miss Pattie McCormick, sister of Mrs. R. M. Hill, began the 1888 term, again teaching near the



First stone building, 1888.

old sawmill, while the stone building, located near the center of the before mentioned plot, was being constructed. Near the middle of the term, it became necessary for her to give up her work that she might care for her sick father. M. L. Stallings was secured to finish the term. On December 14, 1889, an election was held at Evant, M. L. Stallings, presiding officer, levying a 20-cent local tax in District 24 for school maintenance. This is the first record of any local tax in the district.¹³ Evidently, this tax was later rescinded, as there was no local tax in 1899.

Stallings was retained for the term of 1889-90, with an assistant, Miss Rude Atherton. This term was taught in the new stone building. Stallings was an outstanding teacher of that time, a bachelor, boarding with the Tom Sawyer family. When informed that Miss Atherton had been employed to assist him, he remarked, "She need not think she can marry me." However, she must have "played her cards" well, as they were married in less than two months. He continued to head the school through the terms 1890-91 and 1891-92. One incident illustrative of the discipline that marks a highlight in the memory of one pupil of Stallings is related by Jim Singleton. He recalls that it was a custom to require each child to take turns in "reciting speeches," each Friday afternoon. When Jim's turn was announced for the following Friday, he was so frightened at the prospect that he spent the entire week trying to think of some way to avoid it. At noon on Friday, he told his teacher, "Pa told me to get my shoes fixed." He was excused and disappeared until he was sure "speech making" was over. At dismissal of school, Stallings patted him on the shoulder, apologized for having over-

¹³Records of the Coryell County Commissioners Court, Book D, p. 280.

looked him at the exercise, and told him he could say his speech Monday afternoon. However, the incident was never again mentioned, demonstrating the insight of a discerning and conscientious teacher.



Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Stallings.
Persistence always wins.

Chapter III

BULL'S POINT SCHOOL

Langford's Cove was a county-line community, the line between Hamilton and Coryell counties passing across the community from northeast to southwest near the Evan Brooks home about 350 feet northeast of the house (see map). An order passed by County Judge, E. W. Rutherford of Hamilton County, dated February, 1883, establishing Cove School District 27 in Hamilton, Texas, is found in records of the Commissioners Court of Hamilton County. A small lumber building, called "Bull's Point" school, was constructed near the entrance to the present Murphree cemetery, and two terms were taught there, 1886 and 1887. The teacher for both years was G. W. (Walker) Peck. Miss Delia Gooch also taught a summer session there in 1887. Tom Singleton has furnished a very interesting old daily school register, listing the pupils, giving their ages and the number of weeks each attended. The term was twelve weeks. Nineteen attended the full term and twenty-one from three to nine weeks.

In 1888, the two schools, "Bull's Point" in Hamilton County and District 24 in Coryell County, united and the plank building at "Bull's Point" was moved and placed in front of the recently constructed stone building. One term of school, 1889, was taught there, with M. L. Stallings as teacher. The schools then separated. The plank building from "Bull's Point" was moved back into Hamilton County, located across the road from the present W. C. Brooks homestead, and was deridingly called "High School Reformatory" (see map).

Two terms were taught here. The first, 1890, by Miss Lizzie Fifer; the second, 1891, by Miss Lizzie assisted by her sister, Miss Amber Fifer. During Miss Lizzie's first term, a strapping young man of some seventeen years, John Love, son of Dr. Love, violated one of the rules. Miss Lizzie approached him with switch in hand, which he grabbed and broke, then started to run. Miss Lizzie caught him at the door, and clasped both arms around his waist. He dragged her into the yard, but she hung on, until she persuaded him to return to the schoolroom and apologize to her and the students for his "conduct unbecoming of a gentleman."

These pioneer teachers knew there was a way to approach a boy. It might mean a pat on the shoulder, an apology for some fancied oversight, or tenaciously hanging on until the lesson in obedience and courtesy would, as in this instance, be taught.

"BULL'S POINT" REGISTER, 1886

G. W. (Walker) Peck—Teacher

<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Weeks Attended</i>
George Myers	13	11
J. L. Singleton	12	12
Charlie Greer	9	12
Willie White	8	12
J. H. Singleton	10	12
R. Singleton	9	12
J. H. White	13	12
J. M. Bull	14	12
J. R. White	10	12
R. J. Bull	11	12
J. J. Singleton	14	12
T. J. Singleton	7	12
G. Bull	16	12
J. A. Bull	18	12
B. M. Myers	15	12
E. McHorse	9	12
C. T. McHorse	7	12
M. Anders	8	12
J. Gilbert	13	12
E. Thompson	8	9
J. W. James	16	6
L. C. Christian	10	9
W. Doyle	9	7
W. Smith	14	9
B. Christian	14	5
B. Greer	7	9
S. James	8	9
L. Brooks	13	9
S. Seales	7	9
S. Dixon	8	8
J. C. Buford	13	5
P. Ratcliff	14	4
M. Ratcliff	9	3
S. R. Mason	13	3
A. McDorman	10	3
Ida McDorman	8	6
R. Seales	9	4
M. Buford	11	3
A. Buford	9	3
B. Buford	7	3



Miss Lizzie Fifer.

The following names call to mind a few of the families who had moved into the Cove: Frank Burney, Alonzo Burney, W. M. Hampton, Mr. Churchill, Mrs. Sheffield, D. S. Warren, R. W. Warren, Joe Snodgrass, W. F. Lane, Pat Young, Henry Faubion, Morris Brown, "Grandpa" Hodo, W. J. Boykin, J. L. Flowers, Joe Lee, Dr. Winn, the Doyles, and the Ledbetters.

Previous to this time, some legislative changes had been made in the laws governing teacher qualifications, which also included a state suggested curriculum. This year, 1891, a new act was passed and approved instructing each county superintendent or judge to appoint three white teachers, holding first grade certificates, to examine applicants for certificates to teach. The examination questions were mailed from the State Department of Public Instruction to the county superintendent or judge and were opened by him in the presence of the applicants. The papers of the applicants were mailed to the Department and graded; and, if satisfactory grades were made, certificates were issued by the State Superintendent.

Three classes of certificates were issued: First, Second, and Third. All applicants were required to present a certificate signed by three persons testifying that the applicant was of good moral character and habits and to pay a fee of \$3.00. In addition to these requirements, the applicant for a Third grade certificate, valid for one year, took a written examination in spelling, reading, writing, elementary arithmetic, English grammar, and geography. The required grade for passing was at least 50 per cent in all subjects, with a general average of 70 per cent. The applicant for Second grade certificates, valid for one year, in addition to the above, must pass written examination in composition, United States history, Texas history, practical arithmetic, school management, and teaching methods. The same grades were required as for Third grade certificates, but, if by chance the grades were 60 per cent in all subjects and 80 per cent average, the certificate was valid for two years. The applicant for a First grade certificate must pass, in addition to all conditions and subjects of Second and Third grade certificates, elementary algebra, geometry, natural physiology, physical geography, and civil government. The same grades were applicable for one and two year certificates, as for Second and Third grade, but if grades were as much as 70 per cent on subjects and 90 per cent average, the certificate was valid for ten years.¹⁴ No certificate could be renewed, except by examination; and salaries were set according to grade of certificate held: First grade, not to exceed \$75.00 per month; Second grade, not to exceed \$50.00; and Third grade, not to exceed \$30.00.¹⁵ The qualifications required for certificates constituted the state-suggested curriculum, but teachers had the privilege of adding extra activities when deemed advisable, as many did. However, there have since been various legislative amendments relative to teacher qualification and curriculum, always scaled upward. Shortly after this time, new regulations were issued, dropping the Third grade certificate, granting a Second grade county certificate, the papers for which were graded by the county examiners and the certificate issued by the county superintendent or judge, upon the recommendation of the said examiners. This certificate was valid only in the county granting it. The required average grade for passing was raised to 75 per cent. First grade certificates were granted for four and six years only, and the fee for examination was changed from \$3.00 to \$2.00.¹⁶ Two other classes of certificates were also authorized, Permanent and Permanent Primary. The

¹⁴H. P. N. Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, Vol. 10.

¹⁵*Ibid.*

¹⁶H. F. Triplett and F. A. Hauslein, *Civics: Texas and Federal* (Houston: Rein and Sons Co., 1912), p. 153.

Permanent, indicating proficiency in all high school subjects except foreign languages, entitled its holder to teach in any elementary or high school and was valid for life. The Permanent Primary, indicating proficiency in the elementary branches, entitled its holder to teach only in the elementary schools, it also being valid for life.¹⁷ These regulations were operative with slight variations until the passage in 1949 of the Gilmer-Aikin Law. There was one other class of certificate valid in the state, issued without examination to graduates of any State-approved college or university. Graduates of Peabody College for Teachers and certain colleges of other states were permitted to register their diplomas at the State Department of Education and receive certificates valid in Texas. An exhibit of the first recorded certificate of this class is found in the office of Gordon Worley, State Department of Education, showing a diploma issued in 1881 by Sam Houston Normal Institute of San Marcos to David Paulas of Hallettsville, upon completion of a three-year course. This diploma was recognized as a life certificate and is the first so recognized. By the year 1883, diplomas from any State-approved college were so recognized.

In 1891, District 24 began the construction of a large one-story stone building, joining the west end of the original stone building erected in 1888. Also, in 1891, the Commissioners Court of Coryell County gave the trustees of District 24, W. S. Brown, W. W. Barrett, and J. W. Magness, permission to sell a strip of land, 140 feet wide, the entire length of the block, off the west side of the original four-acre plot deeded to County Judge S. B. Raby and his successors in office for school purposes.¹⁸ Presumably, this deal was made to help raise funds for building the new structure.

Many families, attracted by the better opportunities for the schooling of their children, had moved into the community, and several boarding students also were taking advantage of the training offered.

Early in the year 1892, the legislature passed a special act, consolidating the two county line schools, creating an independent district, and incorporating it for school purposes.¹⁹

Immediately the Hamilton County side of the newly formed district added an upper story to the stone building erected by the Coryell County side the previous year.

One outstanding fact is that there were no bond issues voted to construct these buildings. All the stone was donated, and the lime used was processed by local labor in a lime kiln built on the southern side of the grounds. W. F. Lane was employed to haul

¹⁷Triplett and Hauslein, *op. cit.*, p. 152

¹⁸Records of the Coryell County Commissioners Court, Book H, p. 500.

¹⁹*Ibid.*, Book D, p. 500.



Addition to first stone building, 1891.

Top row, left to right: Albert Miller, Marion Thompson, Ned Thompson, Ed Harper, Wesley Whitley, M. L. Stallings (teacher), Joe Thompson, Mrs. Stallings, (teacher), Fred Thompson, Ludie Sawyer, Willie Jackson, Annie Mae Enochs, Eula Burney, Media Gholson, Montie Gholson, Mittie Wright, Mary Carter, Emma Sawyer.

Middle row: Josie Bailey, Pearl Gholson, Gussie Burney, Mary Thompson, Fannie Archer, Emma Langford, Alice Winters, Lena Rogers.

Bottom row: Marshall Burney, Ralph Winn, Albert Gholson, Sam Enochs, Will Jones, Charlie Rogers, Will White, Alice Enochs, Ed Bailey, (in front) Annie Sawyer, Vivian Winn, Palmer Winn, Gene White, Roy Winn, Hattie Thompson, Sudie Rogers, Lonnie Burney, Minnie White, Kate Gholson.

the stone, receiving in payment the "Bull's Point" lumber building, which he moved to a lot south of the branch and west of the old Evant to Lampasas road, where it was used as a residence for many years. The community provided much of the labor and also the funds to finish and equip the building. For the first time manufactured double desks were installed, with two or three long benches, called "recitation benches," out in front, where the various classes of that room assembled to recite their lessons.

This building was ready for occupancy the fall of 1892. It provided space for three classrooms, one in the original building (from this time on known as "the primary room") and one each for grammar and high school, upstairs in the new building. These two rooms were reached by a roofed stairway built outside the east wall of the building. The large lower story room, usually called the "Hall," was used principally for chapel each morning and school entertainments, but sometimes had to be utilized as a classroom for a fourth teacher. The entire school ground was in-

closed by a wire fence, with one wire gate on the east to permit teams and wagons hauling cord wood for fuel to enter. On the north and west, steps about 12 feet long were built over the fence for entry into the school grounds proper. From the southwest corner of the building, directly south to the brow of the hill, a solid wall of planks—stood upright and about 6 feet high—was erected. This wall separated the playground at the back of the building: The east side was for the girls, the west side for the boys, and each group was strictly forbidden to trespass on the playground of the other. A well, located northwest of the building, furnished water, which was drawn by hand, with a rope and long zinc bucket. This fact furnished the boys with an excuse to be often absent from the classroom at recitation time. There was room for a boys' baseball diamond, outside, between the enclosure and the Baptist Church. Many liveoak trees were growing about the grounds, furnishing not only shade but also an ideal place for the elaborate playhouses constructed by the little girls. At this time, there were no athletics for girls, and they had to spend their recreation time in playing "housekeeping," "jump the rope," "ring around Rosie," or "crack the whip." The older girls resorted to group singing, or practicing "recitations." Baseball and marble playing were the activities for boys, at which some became quite expert. Sometimes the older boys would play "burn out." They would stand about thirty paces from each other and one would throw a baseball with all his might, to be caught in the gloveless hands of the other. They were brutes in taking punishment, especially if some of the older girls were in sight.

During the preceding years, many high school students from neighboring communities moved into the Cove, or secured room and board, to take advantage of the then superior facilities for learning. Among them were Willard Bacon, Albert Miller, Tom McCann, and Willie Jackson from Atherton; Ned, Fred, Marion, and Joe Thompson, from Adamsville; Nettie Hines, from Hines Chapel; Gus Fechner from near Arnett; Mattie and Jeanie Price, from Bee House; Sallie Spradley, Ed Harper from near Goldthwaite; and Annie and Lizzie Peck from Fairview.

With the completion of this building, other names of boarding pupils appear: Bedford Forest from Purmela; Monroe Risinger from near Arnett; Boone Gordon, King, Tom, Dave, Ben, and Lula Grubbs kept house, Gertie Gregg boarding with her, Winnie Price from near Bee House, Kate Austin boarded one year, after which her father, Tom Austin, with the family, moved from his ranch located where Ireland now is, in 1892, and became permanent citizens; Eva Drake, Nannie Blaire, Mollie, Beatrice, Ella, and Sam Haskins from near Purmela, the girls riding in a gig (a kind of topless

buggy), driving a mule, with Sam on horseback, Lucy Bone and Ed Cox from near Pearl, and perhaps others.

The forming of the independent district, with the completion of this commodious stone building, marks an epoch in the development and progress of this outstanding school of pioneer Coryell County. It is fitting that we pause and pay tribute to those early day citizens responsible for its founding. Many of them came to Texas when her vast domain was not only a safe hiding place for the renegade white, but the habitat of the roving red man. Some of them lived to see our great State transformed from an almost uninhabited wilderness into a country of great industrial cities, vast networks of railroads, telegraph and telephone systems, newspapers, paved roads, automobiles, airplanes, radios, churches, public schools, institutions of higher learning, and homes and schools for the blind and needy. They leave for us a rich heritage of memories of obstacles overcome, of hardships and heartaches of pioneering days endured, as well as joy in the accomplishment of a hard task well done. The environment that molded their sterling character is forever gone, but we know their love and labor has not been in vain when we look about on the fruition of their hopes in their sons and daughters.

One by one, we see them passing
These old Settlers, aged and grey,
Forms all bent with toil and hardship,
Long and well, they've served their day.
Along the road they trudged with patience
Methinks I see them bravely start,
No warning sign, no inward vision,
Of things to meet that try men's hearts.

In their youth, with steps unfaltering,
Brisk of mien, and keen of eye,
See them face an unknown country
With eager feet, and courage high.
Face the toil and all the hardships,
The privations, and dangers, too,
Of a Country in the making,
That it might be safe for you.

Life's morning sun was just beginning,
To shed its radiance on the path,
That must lead to evening shadows,
Night and Stillness! Rest at last.
Noonday's heat finds them still toiling,
Full of Hope, and Faith, and Love,
Building homes, and schools, and churches,
Asking help from Him Above.

Evening shadows begin to lengthen,
Journey's end is near at hand,
Hardships past, heartaches forgotten,
At the Crossing! See them stand!
Eyes alight with Faith unfailing,
Hope's fruition, not a dream,
Seeking still an unknown Country,
Whose Lord and Master is Supreme.

One by one, we see them passing,
These old Settlers, aged and grey,
Forms all bent with toil and hardship,
Long and Well, they've served their day.
Sleep in Peace, dear friends of childhood,
Your hope is realized, your work is done
With your Faith, by your inspiration,
We'll carry on, till set of Sun.

Chapter IV

FOUNDING OF EVANT

It seems impossible to tell a coherent story of either a town or its school, without including to some extent that of the other, because the growth and development of the one depends largely upon the progress and prosperity of the other. It is therefore necessary to digress for a moment and relate a very important event that took place in 1884 and which had a tremendous significance in shaping the future of both the school and community. It will be remembered that all the business of the community was centered around Langford's store located in the southern part of the Cove on Langford's Branch about one-half mile from the present site of Evant. A post office, known as "Langford's Cove," had been established in 1882, housed in this store, with Ace Langford as postmaster and Ves Howard as deputy. In 1876, Evan (Grandpa) Brooks arrived in the Cove, and in February, 1878, bought 160 acres of land from H. M. Barnett for a consideration of \$1200. This same 160 acres had previously sold several times for \$50.00 and once for \$35.00. In 1884, "Grandpa," a man of vision and outstanding character, set aside a plat for sale and settlement of a town, a description of which follows:

State of Texas

County of Coryell

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that I, E. Brooks, of the County of Hamilton, and State above written, hereby set aside for sale and the settlement of a town, the following described plat of land;

Beginning 195 vrs. from the S.E. corner of the E. C. Glover Survey about 24 miles West of Gatesville, to be known by the name of Evant, said town being within the South and West lines of the said E. C. Glover Survey.

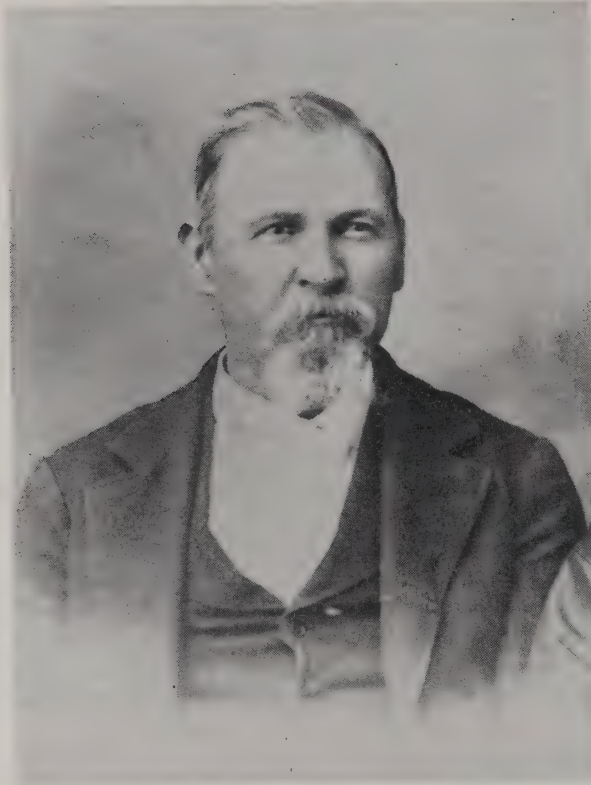
This 23rd day of May, A.D. 1884.

E. Brooks²⁰

This site was ideal for a town. The square was 340 feet each way, with streets and roads entering at each corner, as indicated on the plat. It was situated between two small tributaries of Langford's branch, on an almost level plateau of caliche formation, from which drainage was gradual in all directions, and beautified by many stately liveoak trees.

The first business house erected was in the northeast corner of Block 5 and was constructed of lumber. It was built by Andy

²⁰Coryell County Deed Records, Vol. U, p. 410.



Evan Brooks,
founder of Evant.

Hunter and his partner, a Mr. Lampkin, used for general merchandising and known as Hunter and Lampkin General Store. Very soon after its completion, the post office was moved from Langford's store to this building; the name was changed from Langford's Cove to Evant, with Andy Hunter the first postmaster in the new location. Both the town and post office were named for Evan Brooks, familiarly known as Evant Brooks. Some time later, this building burned and was replaced with a stone building which still stands, and with added improvements, is occupied by the First National Bank. The second business house erected in the new town was that of T. A. Sawyer, also a lumber building, located near the center of the same Block 5. After a few years, this building, too, was destroyed by fire and replaced by the stone building which, with added improvements, is now occupied by Couch Hardware. About the same time, a blacksmith shop was erected across the street from Hunter's store, in the southeast corner of Block 4; and a drugstore, owned by Dr. H. McNeill, was built of lumber,



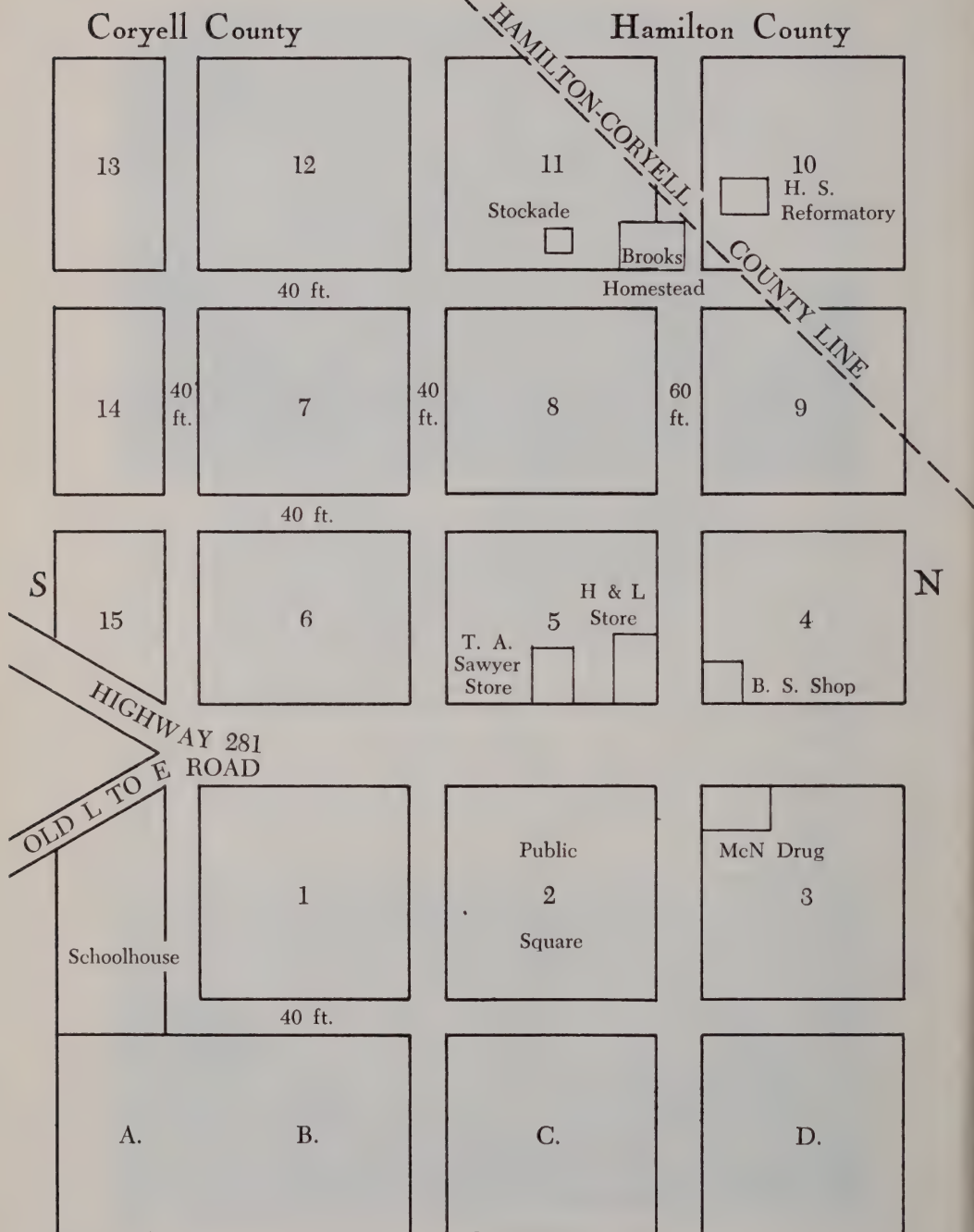
Two-story stone building completed in 1892.

across the street from the blacksmith shop, in the southwest corner of Block 3. However, this building was operated as a drug store for only a short time, then bought by Pat Young and converted into a dry goods store. D. F. Smith erected and operated as a drug store the stone building which, with added improvements, is now occupied by the post office. (See map.) This was the status of the town of Evant in the year 1892, when the two schools were consolidated, the independent district created, and the new two-story building completed and ready for occupancy in the fall of 1892. The physical plant of the Evant school was now complete and adequate, so far as housing was concerned, for several years to come. It only remained to add equipment and other facilities as advancement progressed.



Evant, 1892.

W EVANT TOWN SITE



Chapter V

INSPIRATION OF A NEW SCHOOL BUILDING

There is something about the occupation of a new building, be it store, home, school, or church, which stirs the mind and soul of the human family and causes them to put forth their best efforts to achieve success in whatever undertaking they may be engaged. Such was the feeling on that morning in the early fall of 1892, when the school bell mounted in a cupola atop the new two-story building rang out its summons to school. There was a sense of pride in the accomplishments already achieved, satisfaction in the present, hope and expectancy for the future of the school, and for the boys and girls to be trained within its walls. A child's mind and habits are to a large degree developed in the schoolroom. Here he is taught fundamentals of an education and trained to work out his or her own daily problems. The beginning of school in the new building found patrons and pupils assembled for Chapel in the "Hall."

Wes Kinsey was the principal, Miss Lois White was intermediate teacher, and Mrs. Kinsey was primary teacher. Ten grades were taught and because the school building was not entirely completed at the beginning of school, some classes were held for a time in the nearby Baptist Church. Each morning teachers and pupils assembled for Chapel before school. One song, Scripture reading by the principal, closing song, usually *America* or *Star-Spangled Banner*, and prayer made up the services, and the children were then dismissed to their several classrooms. Miss Alice Crawford was the music teacher. Kinsey had no set rules, but in his opening talk requested that the older boys and girls refrain from having "dates" or association together from Sunday to Friday evening. A debating society was organized for the older pupils, alternating every other Friday evening with a school party or other entertainment, with a teacher in charge. For these occasions, the older boys were requested to see that girls having no brothers were accompanied to and from these functions but were definitely required, on arrival at the door, to leave their charges. Each room,

also, had some kind of exercise after recess each Friday afternoon. This period was sometimes devoted entirely to reading by the teacher of some classic book, such as *Robinson Crusoe* or poems such as "Evangeline" or "Miles Standish." Sometimes the pupils would choose sides and engaged in a spirited "Spelling Match," the winning side being the one spelling the most words correctly.

There is no definite record available as to teachers' salaries, length of term, or number of pupils, but it is safe to state that the public term did not exceed three months, possibly not quite that long. There was a three- or four-week private term, each parent paying a stipulated sum for his own children, taught before the public term began, and often after the public funds were exhausted.

At the close of this year's term, as was usual in schools of this size, a three-night series of "Concerts" was given, consisting of marches, drills, pantomimes, recitations, songs, and short plays. Between "Curtains" it was customary for any and all in the community who could play the "fiddle," banjo, guitar, or organ to volunteer his or her services to entertain the audience. Tom Sawyer was the "fiddler" always depended upon, and there was much enjoyment of his rendition of "Over the Waves," "Dixie," "Buffalo Gals," "Arkansas Traveler," "Cattle in the Cane Brake," "Listen to the Mocking Bird," and "Turkey in the Straw."

There was no mode of travel, except by horseback, or in wagons, hacks, and buggies. On the afternoon of the announced "Concert," these vehicles began to arrive outside the school grounds sometime before sundown, and by the time the hour arrived for starting the music, the "Hall" would be filled to overflowing. This was about all the public amusement people had, and everybody attended. Popular ballads of this period were: "After the Ball Is Over," "Comin' thro' the Rye," "Bird in a Gilded Cage," "Sweet Golden Daisies," "In the Shadow of the Pines," "When You and I Were Young, Maggie," "Silver Threads among the Gold," "Nobody's Darling on Earth."

Because of limited opportunities to equip themselves in an educational way, boards of trustees of these district schools found themselves largely dependent upon the principal selected, to plan a curriculum, with such added features as deemed advisable. They were not equipped to pass on his educational preparedness, and so the first requirement of most boards was whether or not he was a disciplinarian—would he "keep order" in the school.

Reference has been made to the debating society, an activity, especially for the young men, which interested citizens sponsored and encouraged, not only by their presence but also by participation. A. Wurts, an outstanding citizen and ardent well-wisher of young people, especially young men, was an active participant

in these debates and insisted that the training gained in this way was the very best to prepare young men for an active, useful, public life. The inspiration received by participation in this activity was largely responsible for the fact that several young men continued in their pursuit of knowledge and became not only outstanding lawyers but were also elected to the highest offices within the gift of the electorate in the various counties in which they chose to make their homes. To name a few: Lon Brooks, Simon Enochs, Robert Griggs, R. Q. (Quit) Murphree, Thomas Price, and several in other useful professions.

For the 1893-94 term, a Mr. Jenkins was principal, and Miss Georgia Bruton, Simon Enochs, and Miss Eula Burney were the assistants.



Left to Right: Simon Enochs, A. Wurts, Lon Brooks.

Chapter VI

A LIBRARY ESTABLISHED

Down the ages, man has revealed through various modes of inscription—tablets of clay covered with wedge-shaped characters, stone upon which were cut images of animals or other nature pictures, and later, hieroglyphics on papyrus—his insatiable thirst for knowledge, recognizing the importance of preserving records for the perusal of coming generations. This thirst for knowledge was chiefly manifested in the ancient world by vast collections of inscriptions and manuscripts into one place, called a library. Two of the most celebrated of these libraries were located at Alexandria, Egypt. The larger contained 490,000 volumes or rolls and was accidentally destroyed when Caesar set fire to the Egyptian fleet in the harbor of Alexandria.²¹ The fate of the smaller collection of 42,800 rolls, kept in the Temple of Serapis, is not so clear. The story is that when the Arabs took the city in 640 A.D. the Saracen commander ordered the library destroyed, saying that if the writings agreed with the Koran they were unnecessary, and if they did not they should be destroyed. According to this story, the rolls were used to heat the five thousand baths of the city, and lasted for six months before all were destroyed. Both the ancient and modern worlds have experienced great disasters of nature, floods, typhoons, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and physical ravages of war, but never in the history of the world has there been so great a disaster nor one so far-reaching in retarding civilization as the destruction of these great libraries and other collections of special writings. In the loss of this product of many generations of progress, they, with wanton waste, destroyed footprints of the past and removed many steppingstones to the future. It is shocking beyond adequate expression that anyone would wilfully destroy books—books, man's most instructive and interesting companions.

The school term 1894-95 found a Mr. Nelson as principal; Miss Claude Abbott, Mrs. Nelson, and Miss Bertie Barlow, as assistants. Nelson was an aggressive teacher, and immediately noted the lack of library and reference facilities. He asked the high school girls to launch a campaign to raise the necessary funds to meet this

²¹Standard Educator Society, *Standard Reference* (Chicago: 1923), Vol. IV.

very urgent need. As an incentive to insure enthusiastic cooperation, he promised that the young lady bringing in the largest sum of money should be honored by the naming of the library with her first name. There was quite a bit of spirited competition, and upon the day when the funds were turned in, it was found that Miss Winnie Price and Miss Celia Dixon had secured the largest donations. In fulfillment of his promise, Nelson named the library, "Winnie-Celia Library."

No record can be found of the exact amount of money raised or the number of books purchased, but it is recalled by many that from this beginning an adequate library, consisting of dictionaries, encyclopedias, reference books, classics (including complete sets of Dickens, Scott, Whittier, Cooper, Longfellow, Burns, Wilcox, and perhaps others), globes and maps was soon an accomplished fact. A small enclosure, with a door that could be locked when the building was unoccupied, was built in the southwest corner of the upstairs room on the south, to accommodate this very valuable addition to the equipment of the school. This was the classroom occupied by the principal and high school students; and many instructive, happy hours were spent, perusing the contents housed within the walls of this small library room. Fifty-six years after its establishment, one often recalls the lessons learned, the philosophy of life, taught within the pages of its books, and which have been a guide and anchor in all major crises of after life.

Do you wish the world were better?
Let me tell you what to do.
Set a watch upon your actions,
Keep them always straight and true.
Rid your mind of selfish motives,
Let your mind be clean and high
And you will make a little Eden
Of the sphere you occupy.

When I have lost my temper
I've lost my reason, too,
I am never proud of anything
Which angrily I do.
When I have talked in anger
With my face all flaming red
I've always uttered something
I wished I hadn't said.
In anger I have never done
A kindly deed or wise,
But always many things
For which I should apologize.

In looking back across my life
And all I've lost, or made,
I can't recall a single time
When fury ever paid.

The leaves are fading and falling,
And winds and rains so wild,
The birds have ceased their calling
But let me tell you, my child,
Though day by day as it closes
Doth darker and colder grow,
The roots of the bright red roses
Will keep alive in the snow.

And when the winter is over,
The boughs will get new leaves,
The quail come back to the clover
And the swallow back to the eaves.
The robin will wear on his bosom,
A breast that is bright and new,
And the loveliest wayside blossom
Will shine with the sun and dew.

The leaves today are whirling,
The brooks are all dry and dumb,
But let me tell you, my darling,
The spring will be sure to come.
There must be rough, cold weather,
And winds and rains so wild,
Not all good things together
Come to us here, my child.

So, when some dear joy loses
Its beauteous summer glow,
Think how the roots of the roses,
Are kept alive in the snow.

Boys flying kites may haul in
their white-winged birds
But you can't do that, when
you are flying words.
Careful with fire, is good advice
we know,
Careful with words, is ten times
doubly so.
Thoughts, unexpressed, may sometimes
fall back dead,
But you can't kill them
once they are said.

The 1895-96 term was taught by a Mr. Ryan as principal, with Mrs. Eula (Burney) Bryan (one-half term), Miss Fannie Rudgely (one-half term), Miss Mattie Hampton, and Miss Annie Peck as assistants.

In the spring of 1896, John A. Gardner, a minister and father of Mrs. Lona Burney (later a teacher in the Evant school) moved into town from Gatesville and established a printing press and for the first time Evant boasted of a newspaper called *The Evant Banner*. With this facility available, the principal for the 1896-97 term, a Mr. West, had a school catalogue printed, beautifully illustrated with pictures of the building and grounds, listing the Board of Trustees, teachers, roster of pupils, rules of conduct, and other matters pertaining to the affairs of the school. This catalogue, the first to be used at Evant, was also descriptive of the environment of the community, its churches, social life, and outstanding citizenship. Several hundred were printed and mailed to parents in and out of the community. Unfortunately, no copy of any school catalogue can be found, but the use of them continued for several years. The assistants under West were Miss Valley Hill, Miss Laura Cavett, and Miss Nannie Holmes. Miss Valley, a home-town girl, ambitious and very anxious that the reputation of her town and school be spotless, devoted much of her time emphasizing refinements of conduct. One suggestion to the boys was that it was quite proper and manly to tip their hats in salute when meeting or passing a lady. After fifty-four years, not in obedience to any rule but through courtesy, those boys still never fail to tip their hats to ladies.

No further memory of this particular term has been found, but progress in both educational and numerical strength continued. The next term, 1897-98, was taught under the direction of a Mr. Hayes, principal, with Robert Griggs, Miss Sudie Evans, and Miss Valley Hill as assistants. The opportunities afforded in this school continued to attract the attention of parents in neighboring communities, and this year, a Mr. Stiles, a rancher in the Ohio section, bought a lot and built a small three-room house to accommodate his children, Tom, Ed, Mary, and George during the school term. Friday afternoon programs of songs, recitations, spelling matches, Friday Night literary and debating societies, rigid rules of conduct, and at the close of school, two and sometimes three nights of "Exhibitions" or "Concerts" had continued through all these terms.

For the 1898-99 term, Hayes was again elected principal, with Robert Griggs, Miss Vivian Graves, and Miss Mattie Rutledge as assistants. This year, Hayes, especially favoring declamations—or, as more frequently termed, recitations—as a means of better training for public life, determined to encourage this activity by offering as

an incentive to extra effort, four gold medals engraved as follows:

1899

Hayes

1899

Excellence in recitation

Winner's name

One medal was offered to the boys, one to the girls, in each of the two upstairs rooms. The announcement was made some six weeks before the close of school, to give time for preparation for the contest on the closing night of the "Concerts." Lambton Burney was the winner for the boys and Gertrude Hill for the girls in Hayes' room. John Griggs won the boys' contest and Pattie Hill the girls' in Griggs' room.

Chapter VII

NEW HEIGHTS ATTAINED BY LITERARY AND MUSICAL TIDE

With the coming of the school term 1899-1900, the trustees found themselves very fortunate in securing the services of a highly educated, cultured gentleman to take over the duties and responsibilities incumbent upon one who assumes the direction and leadership of a public school, with its countless opportunities for influencing and directing into right living the character and after lives of its many boys and girls. R. L. Bewley was eminently fitted for the task before him. He not only held the highest certificate of qualification then issued, Life certificate, based upon a diploma from college, but he was also an accomplished musician, skilled in playing all stringed instruments as well as a singer of distinction. His wife, too, was a highly educated musician, majoring in piano. Together, they brought not only to the school but also to the entire community, a higher appreciation of music in all its various phases. Their rendition of classical music had an interpretation and understanding rarely found. Bewley continued at the helm of the school through the years 1899-1900 through 1903-04, and retained the same assistants throughout his stay: J. W. Burney, grammar school; Miss Mattie Hunter, intermediate; and Mrs. Bewley, primary. There was no music teacher employed, but after school hours and on Saturdays, Bewley taught those pupils desiring lessons on stringed instruments, and Mrs. Bewley taught piano, both at a nominal price. The many musicals, concerts, and other entertainments of the school interspersed with Spanish and "darker" melodies were lively, amusing, and lovable. Stephen Foster's immortal, heart-stirring songs: "Old Kentucky Home," "Old Black Joe," "Old Folks at Home," "Massa's in de Cold, Cold Ground," "Beautiful Dreamer," and Crosby's "Dearest Mae," Bland's "Carry Me Back to Ole Virginny," Hanby's "Darling Nellie Gray," the Spanish "Juanita," and many others of like strain were favorites of both school and community. Under Bewley's direction, a string band composed



R. L. Bewley.

of pupils often met in the home of the Bewleys for practice. This activity continued through the five years of Bewley's stay. Some members of this band were Billie Richards, violin; Tom Carl Sawyer, violin; Pattie Hill, banjo; Bertha Hunter, banjo; Verner Hartman, banjo; Annie Sawyer, guitar; Beulah Hartman, mandolin; Maye Carter, guitar, Sudie Longmire, guitar, and Bessie Sawyer, mandolin (or organ when available). There is no way to evaluate the influence of good music on the thoughts and lives of boys and girls, and many lovely memories still live in the hearts of these young people.

Under a legislative act of 1891, maximum salaries of teachers were set according to grade of certificate held, but no minimum salary was mentioned. Finances of most schools, at that time, were extremely limited, and few teachers drew the maximum salary. The smaller schools usually had to take teachers with the lower grade certificates, as teachers holding the higher class certificates sought to obtain positions paying the maximum salary. It was a



Practice singing for high school girls.

Back row, left to right: Hattie Austin, Lonnie Burney, Vela Dixon, Bertha Baker, Annie Sawyer, Bertha Hunter.

Second row: Beulah Hartman, Lilla Lee Flowers, Grace Bull, Linna Burney.

Bottom row: Bessie Elam, Sudie Longmire, Susie Carlisle, Mary Wiswell.

matter of pride that the Evant Board of Trustees were able to pay Bewley the maximum salary of \$75 per month. However, it was a struggle to maintain even a six-month term, as the public fund was sufficient for not more than three and one-half months.

For years, it had been a custom to teach a private term of some six weeks before and after the public term was taught, parents paying \$1.50 per month for each child attending. However, this method had been found to be unsatisfactory, working hardship upon those pupils whose parents were financially unable to send them. The trustees and principal sought a better way by asking the entire community to make donations to extend the term and let all children attend free of charge. Prior to 1900, the state apportionment had been \$3.50 per pupil, but in 1900 it was raised to \$6.50, continuing at that figure until 1920-21, when it was raised to \$14.50, thereafter steadily increasing until 1947-49, when it reached the high figure of \$55.00.²² At this time, too, 1899-1900, there was no state-required curriculum, only a suggested minimum for the tenth grade, which was the high school, of proficiency in five subjects, namely: Elementary Algebra, Geometry, Physiology, Physical Geography, and Civil Government. However, if the teacher was qualified and the students so desired, it was left to the teacher's discretion to add any subjects deemed advisable. This

²²*Texas Almanac*, 1952-53, p. 421.

first year of his administration, Bewley began to add extra-curricular activities. He began business training in both the grammar and high schools by establishing a Friday afternoon period of public business. Some were designated as merchants, bankers, salesmen, and other activities in the business world. Places of business were set up, pupils buying, selling, keeping accounts, and engaging in all phases of business relations to be encountered in the business world. These activities were made very realistic, the entire afternoon being devoted to it, pupils exchanging roles at different periods. This activity continued for the grammar school throughout his administration, but the second year it was dropped by the high school, and training in political life substituted, by organizing a democratic form of government with President, House of Representatives, Senate, and Supreme Court. Elections were held for the various offices, different students being elected for different offices each time, to give as many as possible opportunity to serve in all offices. Bills were introduced, discussed, and acted upon in both House and Senate. The President would sometimes veto a bill, sending it back for further action. Some students were arraigned in Supreme Court, others acting as prosecuting and defense attorneys, some as witnesses, others as secretaries. This activity was, of course, under the direction of the teacher, and its result in understanding of our form of government, its laws, and relation to everyday living, cannot be over-estimated. These activities replaced the Friday afternoon programs, the spelling matches being added to the Friday evening programs of literary and debating societies, which were still held on alternating Friday nights. This year, there were many new housekeeping and boarding pupils attending the high school department. A few recalled to memory are: Mattie Stiles, Lillie and Laura Bertrand, Lillian Stinson, Eugene, Ida, Bessie, and Grace Elam, Verner and Beulah Hartman, Burton and George Jones, Blain and Blon Lovejoy, Earnest Farmer, Mary Wiswell, Lula and Lizzie Cox, and perhaps others. The term 1899-1900 lasted six months, including the subscription schools at the beginning and close of the public term; that of 1900-01, six months; 1901-02, seven months; 1902-03, six months; and 1903-04, eight months. Each year saw addition in the high school of extra subjects not suggested in the minimum curriculum. The monthly reports submitted to parents were in book form, one page devoted to "Remarks by the teacher," with space for brief remarks each month, two pages devoted to grades—one for subjects and one for general conduct, attendance, punctuality, application, recitation, deportment, examination, and general average. These grades were figured to a fraction, with anything below 75 per cent very unsatisfactory, below 70 per cent failure.



First graduating class, April 21, 1904.

Left to right: Walter H. McNeill, Sudie (Longmire) Carter, Linna Burney, Nellie Bowman, Otto Burney.

One page for "Merits" or "Demerits" for each month, one for promotion, and one for graduation were also included in the reports. These reports had to be signed by parents and returned to the teacher each month until the close of school, then handed to the succeeding teacher for classification the following year.

Up to this time, school teaching was not an attractive profession from a financial standpoint, and there was little incentive for one to exert much effort in preparation; so, too many boys and girls left school far too early, and, although some did complete the work offered, there had been no graduation exercises, no diplomas of graduation given, until this year of 1904. There was a class of five members, composed of Walter H. McNeill, Otto Burney, Nellie Bowman, Linna Burney, and Sudie (Longmire) Carter, to graduate and receive diplomas. Three of the five subjects suggested for tenth grade work had been completed in the ninth grade, and so to the other two suggested subjects, Algebra and Geometry, were added General History, Advanced Grammar, Rhetoric, Physics, Advanced Arithmetic, Latin (Caesar), Geology, Trigonometry, and Astronomy. The following is a copy of the report card of one member of this class, showing subjects studied, monthly grades, rank in class, and the term average:

History	96	97	97	98	98	97½	98	99
Grammar	94	94	94½	97	98	97½	98	98
Rhetoric	96	97	97	97	98	98¼	99	99½
Physics	94	95	96	97	97½	98	97	98
Arithmetic	95	97	97	99	100	(Left off.)		
Algebra	94	96	95	98	99	(Left off.)		
Geometry	90	92	92½	93	100	98	99	99½
Latin	93	95	95	98	99½	99	99¼	99
Geology	(Added)			98	99	98½	98	98½
Trigonometry	(Added)			97	96	97	98	99
Astronomy	(Added)			97	96	98	98½	100
Neatness	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Homework	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Rank in Class	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1

Term average 98 $\frac{653}{960}$



Walter H. McNeill.

No member of this class fell below a term average of 97, and at the request of Bewley, all went before the County Board of Examiners at Hamilton, took the state examination for First grade certificates, and all passed. Only the two young men were able

to go on to college, Walter entering the State University and majoring in engineering. After graduation, he was employed in the engineering department of the University for twenty-six years, continuing there until his death in 1951. Otto entered North Texas State Teachers College, majoring in law, later taking his degree in law from the State University, was admitted to the bar, and practiced his profession until his death. The three young ladies chose to become housewives. The graduation exercises, April 21, 1904, completed five years of outstanding service for this able corps of teachers.

The next term, 1904-05, was taught by a Mr. Cole as principal, J. W. Burney and Mrs. Dora Goode as assistants. In 1905-06, a Mr. Duncan was principal. In 1906-07, a Mr. Craigbaum was principal, with Miss Eva Parks and a Mrs. Swearingen assistants. In 1907-08, a Mr. Hunter was principal with Miss Iva Sparks and Mrs. Swear-



Early baseball team, about 1908.

Top row, left to right: Lee Stinson, Charlie Longmire, Dunk Barkley, and Chester Griffin.

Bottom row: Elmer Brooks, Truett Thompson, Vick Donnell, Will Wilhite, Captain, Richard Patterson and Roy Wilhite.

ingen as assistants. In 1908-09, a Mr. Tolbert was principal, with Mrs. T. V. Curry and Mrs. Swearingen as assistants. D. B. Burroughs was principal in 1909-10, with J. P. Gerald, Miss Zina Stewart (one-half term) and Miss Lula Jones (last half term) as assistants. It is unfortunate that the records of several terms of school over a period of years have been mislaid, lost, or destroyed. From what-

ever cause, they cannot now be found, memories are hazy and unreliable, and so no accurate history of these terms can be given.

With the beginning of the 1910-11 term, the first record of the school's finances is found, and with other detailed information is now given.

Chapter VIII

SCHOOL

CONTRIBUTIONS

1910-11 Trustees,
 D. H. Carter, Pres.
 J. W. Burney, Secty.
 No record of other trustees.

Scholastic Apportionment	\$768.00
Teachers' salaries	792.00
Deficit	\$ 24.00

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
J. B. Wood, Principal	\$ 85.00
W. D. Hunter	60.00
Miss Fannie Countess	50.00

Prior to this date, there had been no athletics for girls in the Evant school. While attending college, Miss Countess had learned a new game for girls, called basketball. Calling all the girls above fourteen years of age together, she told them that if they would raise five dollars to buy a ball and rule book, she would teach them the game. Each girl who wanted to play brought fifty cents, and soon the order was on its way. In the meantime, Miss Countess supervising, goals were forged by the blacksmith, posts were set up, and backboards constructed from scraps of lumber gathered here and there. The court ran north and south and was located directly north of the big tree, which still stands, just inside and to the right of the west entrance to the school grounds. The game was somewhat as it is today, except that the court was a three-division affair, and the team consisted of two forwards, two centers, and two guards. The suits worn remind one of the "gay nineties" bathing suits, consisting of a white middy blouse, solid color calico bloomers, made with as much cloth as could be pleated into them, with a knee length skirt pleated as full as possible worn over the bloomers. Tennis shoes, long black cotton stockings, and a tie to match the skirt completed the costume. The first team wore blue and white; the second, red and white. Some girls who would have made excellent players were not permitted to play—their parents considering it unladylike to be so "Tom-boyish" and so scantily clad.

The first year there were no competitive games, since Evant was the only school having a basketball team. The second year, how-



Early girls' basketball uniforms,
modeled by Lucy White and Lois Piper.

ever, there was plenty of competition. Star, Liberty, Pearl, and Purmela came forward with teams that gave Evant plenty of trouble. Soon these neighboring schools began to hold "Field Days," at which there was competition in potato and sack racing and other contests, but the highlight of the day was basketball. Other games, such as tennis and volleyball, made their appearance in the schools on "Field Days" and picnics, but since its introduction into the school, basketball has been the center of athletics for girls. Evant has since had many fine girl teams, and the game is now much more scientific than then, but no team has had a better school spirit, or fought harder to win, than this first team.

Roster of first team

Gladys Langford—forward
Bessie Thompson—forward
Evangeline Hill—guard
Acenith Lane—guard
Leona Blair—center
Bessie White—center

Substitutes

Mertice White
Clara Langford
Ione Blair
Maud Snider

1911-12 Trustees:

D. H. Carter, Pres.

J. W. Burney, Secty.

D. Blair, Treas.

J. E. Snider, J. E. Faubion, S. B. Winters, and H. Y. Price.

Scholastic Apportionment	\$843.60
Tax	263.25
	<u>\$1,106.85</u>

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
H. T. Hall, Principal	\$100.00
Miss Laura McNeill	50.00
Miss Fannie Countess	50.00

Since the 20-cent tax levied in 1889 had been rescinded and the school had been for several years without a local tax, an election was called in 1909 for the purpose of voting a 25-cent maintenance tax. It lost. In 1910, another election for the same purpose was called. It lost. There were in the district eight property-owner qualified voters whose signature was a X (His mark). These eight held the balance of power, and always voted against the tax. During the years when there was no local tax, the public school fund was insufficient to maintain a six-month term, and so the school board had resorted to subscriptions for donations to be collected when needed to finish the six-month term. It became increasingly hard to collect these subscriptions, for by the time the money was needed, one would say his crop was a failure, his cattle, sheep, or hogs had died, the price for his products had gone down, or there had been sickness in the family with a large doctor bill—therefore, he could not meet the obligation of his subscription. The trustees had signed contracts with the teachers for six months at stipulated salaries, and were therefore responsible. The only way they could meet the deficit, which sometimes amounted to more than a hundred dollars, was to divide it seven ways and pay it individually. This situation lasted several years before some who had always opposed a tax were elected to the school board and learned from experience just what a hardship was being placed on the trustees. They immediately began a campaign of enlightenment of this situation, and when in 1911 another election was called, it carried overwhelmingly. Since that time, the tax has been varied to meet increased needs, but the school has never again suffered from lack of a local tax. In 1911, the important Rural High School Law was passed, and for the first time high schools were recognized by the State Department of Public Instruction.²³

²³Ralph W. Steen, *The Texas Story* (Austin: The Steck Co., 1948), p. 369.

At the beginning of this term, there had been some discussion in the community for the organization of a Parent-Teacher Association, which organization was completed. Quite a bit of interest was shown at first, but for some reason attendance dropped, and the P.-T.A. slowly died. There had been no material improvement in the school building since its completion in 1892 and very little repair work. The inside of the building needed refinishing, the stage was inadequate to take care of the programs, the double-desk seats were far too few, and other repairs were badly needed. The school board had its own financial worries and was unable to spare any money for these badly needed items. Some specially interested ladies organized what was known as the "Ladies Club," to find ways and means to raise the necessary funds to meet these needs. After much discussion, these ladies conceived the idea of furnishing the community with entertainment by presenting plays to be rendered in the school auditorium with a 25-cent admission charge for all persons over eight years of age. The club assumed the responsibility of selecting plays, casting characters, and making all necessary arrangements. They felt free to call upon anyone in the district to contribute service in any way possible, and were never disappointed in securing the needed assistance. These programs were first rendered in the home district, Evant. Later, by invitation, other nearby communities were visited, it being the custom when making these visits to give 10 per cent of the receipts to the hostess school. On one occasion it was found that the neighboring school was in even greater need than Evant, and the entire receipts of \$68.00 were donated to that school. This activity required planning, concentration, and work on the part of these ladies, most of whom were cast in the plays, which required weeks of preparation and rehearsal. Some had small children, for whom provision had to be made, and, when visiting other communities, there were no automobiles in which to travel, only buggies, hacks, and wagons, requiring most of the afternoon to go, and it was always past midnight and often in the wee small hours before they reached home. Facing all kinds of weather, often winter's severest cold, but because of their interest in the future of their own and their neighbors' children and loyalty to their school, no one of them was ever heard to complain of hardship or discomfort, and their financial reward for the school was great. After a few programs, the lack of proper stage space and equipment was so evident that the first step was to provide things necessary for the success of the performance. Sometime in the past, an organ had been provided for Chapel, but was so nearly worn out that it was almost unusable. Three ladies of the club, Miss Annie Sawyer, Mrs. S. B. Winters, and Mrs. D. H. Carter, went to the bank, then as now under the

management of Evant T. Brooks, and laid their problem before him. He suggested that if these three ladies would sign a personal note he would advance the necessary money to buy a piano without further security. This was done, and the first school piano was purchased and installed. The next major problem was a larger stage with proper equipment. The club felt that this was too great a problem for them to handle alone, and so they appealed to D. H. Carter, who was president of the school board. Carter immediately contacted the King Scenic Company of Dallas, who sent a representative to draft plans and submit a bill of cost. The entire stage improvement cost was about \$750.00, including a hand-painted roll-type curtain costing \$500.00. Carter and Elmer Brooks now went to the bank, signed a personal note for the necessary funds, and the enlarged stage, equipment, wings, and beautiful curtain were soon an accomplished fact. The effect of this new equipment was soon apparent. Increasing crowds filled the auditorium to overflowing, and before the school year closed, the \$150.00 for the piano plus the \$750.00 for the stage were collected and both notes liquidated.

1912-13. Same trustees.

119 Scholastics.

Scholastic Apportionment	\$763.69
Tax	191.94
	<u>\$955.63</u>

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
H. T. Hall, Principal	\$100.00
Mrs. H. T. Hall	50.00
W. D. Hunter	60.00

The phenomenal success of the previous year's work of the Ladies Club was a great incentive to more strenuous effort for the greater undertaking planned for 1912. The next, and much more difficult, problems of building repair and proper seating were approached with confidence in the ability to achieve success. A contractor was employed to refinish the walls, paint the inside woodwork, and make other necessary repairs inside the building. A school furniture company was contacted, and new single desks were bought, to seat adequately the classrooms throughout. The old double desks were traded or sold to another school. The need for a second piano was apparent, and so one was bought. In fact, the task before the club was to raise more than \$1,500.00. The problem was attacked with vigor. More and better plays were obtained, and the program rapidly pushed to completion. With the new stage and equipment, the auditorium was recognized as one of the most comfortable and beautiful in this section, and other communities began to bring

programs in reciprocity. Needless to say, the objective of the club was achieved, the more than \$1,500.00—at that time quite a large sum—was raised, and the needed improvements were installed. The active members of this club were: Mrs. T. J. Brooks, Mrs. S. B. Winters, Mrs. H. T. Hall, Mrs. D. H. Carter, Mrs. D. Blair, and Miss Annie Sawyer. Others assisting in the plays were Evant T. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Brooks, Tom Carl Sawyer, Mr. and Mrs. Will Wilhite, Miss Acenith Lane (now Mrs. O. Z. Wilson), Miss Bertha Hunter, Miss Clara Lovelady, Ben Hill, and D. H. Carter. Some of the plays used were: *Rebecca's Triumph*, *Out in the Streets*, *Home Ties*, *Courtship under Difficulties*, and many others.

None of these plays were presented until the script was thoroughly memorized, and the characterizations so familiar as to become natural. If lines were forgotten, one had better be alert and say something appropriate to the situation, for there was no prompting from the wings. Will Wilhite was especially good at improvising.

In this year, 1912, the school lost by death one of its best friends and staunch supporters, A. Wurts, postmaster for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Wurts had no children, but their chief interest in life was the school. At Mrs. Wurts' death in 1916, she left a will made to "the trustees of Evant school, and their successors, for the use and benefit of said school, in accordance with the often expressed will of my deceased husband, A. Wurts, and in accordance with my own wishes," leaving all the property possessed at death to the school. This will was probated June 9, 1916, and R. M. Hill was appointed executor. On June 19, 1916, he deeded the Wurts property to the trustees and their successors, "with the provision that, in accordance with the wish expressed in the will, said property shall be an endowment, the proceeds of which shall be used exclusively, for the benefit of said school, and may be sold only to provide equipment, library facilities, building, or if needed, more land, but may never be used to supplement salaries." On July 10, 1916, T. A. Sawyer, E. P. Thompson, and D. H. Carter were appointed appraisers, and submitted the following report to the Court:

1 store building and lot	\$600.00
1 note (W. F. Lane)	529.82
3 residences and lots	1,200.00
Fixtures, furniture, and household goods	60.00
Cash	377.00
Total	<u>\$2,766.83</u>

The same day, D. H. Carter was appointed administrator, to pay all bills and make final report to the Court. Trustees on this date were: C. W. Smith, D. S. Warren, S. B. Winters, S. J. Smith, J. H. Watson, E. P. Thompson, and R. L. Chapman.



A. Wurts.

On February 7, 1925, trustees were E. A. Smith, President, E. T. Brooks, Secretary, F. Marshall, K. W. West, Will Wilhite, M. J. Broyles, and Joe Dixon. They sold at public auction the 70 x 120 foot lot and building on the corner of the square to C. O. Longmire, C. J. Griffin, and S. R. Fuller for \$700.00, saying it was necessary to sell part of the property "for funds to repair remainder of the property and keep it in condition to receive rents and revenues from same." This transaction is recorded in Book 105, page 343, Records of the Commissioners Court of Coryell County. In Book 126, page 193, of the same records is recorded the sale of a small portion of the property to obtain funds with which to help provide a water system for the school. In Book 136, page 279, of the same records is recorded a deal with Mrs. S. B. Winters, in which the trustees bought her homestead, adjoining the school grounds, for a teacherage. This deal was consummated on September 14, 1940, the trustees giving in exchange, as part payment, one lot valued at \$700.00. In Book 136, page 520, of the same records is recorded that on February 27, 1941, the trustees sold to W. G. Wall, for the purpose of establishing an auction sale, one lot valued at \$400.00, this being the last of the real estate of the Wurts property willed and deeded to the Evant school. The proceeds from these sales have been incorporated in the school unit and cannot now be identified.

The records pertaining to all transactions necessary in the probating of this will and transfer of the property to the School Board are found in the Proceedings of the Probate Court of Coryell County for the year 1916, at Gatesville, Texas. The monetary value of the gift from Mr. and Mrs. Wurts was comparatively small, but their example and influence will live on, so long as there exists a school at Evant. Mr. Wurts was in business at Evant as a merchant and as postmaster for many years. He was illiterate and perhaps the knowledge of his own handicap contributed to his zeal for preparedness of young people to meet and conquer the problems of life. It was his opportunity and pleasure to see and to enjoy some of the fruits of his influence and encouragement to young men in the lives of some so helped. The years may completely hide the material gift, but no passage of time can erase one's contribution to citizenship. It is a perennial that continues to bloom, spreading its fragrance and beauty in new lives and adding fullness of meaning to that philosophy of life: "Be a good man, a good citizen, and all worthwhile things are yours."

Chapter IX

FREE TEXTBOOKS

1913-14 Trustees

D. H. Carter, Pres.

J. W. Burney, Secty.

D. Blair, Treas.

S. B. Winters, D. S. Warren, R. L. Chapman, and

S. J. Smith.

Scholastic Apportionment	\$1,101.37
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Tax	133.00
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Total	\$1,234.37
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<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
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J. R. Holly, Principal	\$100.00
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R. J. Gerald	60.00
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Miss Lillie Leach	50.00
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At the first meeting and organization of the Board, a motion was made and unanimously carried that all applications should be considered and all teachers elected by unanimous vote. The purpose was to give assurance of support to the teacher by the knowledge of a 100 per cent election. Applications were filed with the President or Secretary, who gave the applicant the names of the other board members, who then received personal visits from the applicant. This year, all teachers were unanimously elected on the first ballot, with the exception of one position, over which there was much division—not even a majority vote could be obtained. The Board adjourned with a meeting called for the following evening. At this meeting there was discussion and some concession, but still no unanimous vote. The Board adjourned with a meeting called for the following Friday evening. This time each member was requested to give specific reasons for his support of any applicant. The chief supporter of the debated application was a stalwart man, not only in physique but in tenacity and endurance as well. Slowly and ponderously he rose to his feet, squared his shoulders as did “Horatius at the Bridge,” and said, “Gentlemen and fellow members, my words are few, but plain. It is personality. She has the chiseled features of a Greek goddess, her brow crowned with a lustrous auburn halo, her eyes far more entrancing than the limpid waters of the Sea, and . . .” The pendulum of favoritism had definitely swung to his side. She was unanimously elected. It so happened that she was well qualified, had some years of experience, and was one of the best primary teachers the school ever had.

1914-15. Same Trustees.	
Scholastic Apportionment	\$892.69
Tax	335.78
	<hr/>
	\$1,228.47

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
J. R. Holly, Principal	\$100.00
R. J. Gerald	60.00
Miss Annie Sawyer	50.00
1915-16. Same Trustees.	
Scholastic Apportionment	\$1,181.69
Tax	362.61
	<hr/>
	\$1,544.30

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
J. R. Holly, Principal	\$107.00
W. D. Hunter	60.00
Miss Annie Sawyer	50.00

This year, two laws—both very important to the progress of the public school system in Texas and to the welfare of its future citizenship—were passed by the legislature. The public school is nonpartisan, non-sectarian, democratic, and for all the children, of all the people: Hence, the importance of the Compulsory School Law, compelling all parents to send all children between the ages of eight and fourteen years to school. In 1916, this law further provided, with some exceptions, that beginning with the 1918-1919 school year, all children between the specified ages, must attend school at least 100 days each year. In 1939, it was further amended, changing the ages to from seven to sixteen and requiring attendance for 120 days per year. The enactment of this law created some dissatisfaction in some elements for a time. It is in full accord with the philosophy of entire separation of state and church and freedom of worship, as expressed in the constitutions of both the United States and Texas. It has contributed much in removing illiteracy and raising the educational standards of the state. The Rural State Aid law, appropriating a million dollars for the aid of the poorer rural schools and for improving facilities and lengthening terms, is the second law passed during the year 1915. Subsequent legislatures have continued to make appropriations for aid to both the rural schools and to supplement the general school fund.

1916-17. Same Trustees.	
Scholastic Apportionment	\$771.50
Tax	444.30
	<hr/>
	\$1,215.80

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
A. H. Stephens, Principal	\$90.00
W. D. Hunter	60.00
Miss Annie Sawyer	50.00

This year, 1916, the State Department of Education assumed responsibility for accrediting the high schools. Prior to this time, The University of Texas inspected the schools and set the standards.²⁴

1917-18. Same Trustees.	
Scholastic Apportionment	\$1,191.85
Tax	754.82
	<u>\$1,946.67</u>
<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
L. B. Plummer, Principal	\$100.00
W. D. Hunter	60.00
Miss Annie Sawyer	50.00

This year, 1917, saw several changes in the educational system. The legislature declared that, in order to accomplish better and more uniform results, the schools of the state should be placed on a unified basis. It was asserted that the high school presented a special problem, and that it was imperative that its interests be cared for by persons specially trained to take care of the situation. The Division of High Schools was organized, with provision for compensation of a Chief Supervisor and five Associate Supervisors. In setting up this state program of unification, high schools were divided into three classes: Class A, representing four years, or completion of the eleventh grade; Class B, three years, or completion of the tenth grade; and Class C, two years, or completion of the ninth grade. Recognizing the responsibility of the state to train its future citizens in the vocations they were to follow in adult years, a legislative act was passed providing for vocational training in the public schools. By acceptance of an act passed by the federal government, known as the Smith-Hughes Act, it was made possible for schools to receive federal aid to strengthen and carry on the program of vocational agriculture, industrial trades, and home economics.²⁵ The local tax rate was raised from twenty-five cents to fifty cents. In the fall of this year, 1917, L. B. Plummer, Principal, assisted by Edgar Buie, organized an activity for boys new to this community, a troop of Boy Scouts of America. Plummer was the Scoutmaster and Horace Poteet was chosen as Assistant Scoutmaster, both serving in these positions until the close of school in the spring of 1918, when Plummer resigned. Poteet took his place, serving as Scoutmaster until the summer of 1919. D. H. Carter served as Commissioner and Councilor of the troop. Members at organization were: Robbie Marshall, Sherman Warren, Paul Otis Wilhite, Clyde Thompson, Rollo Price, Lambeth

²⁴E. C. Barker, C. S. Potts, and C. W. Ramsdell, *A School History of Texas* (Chicago: Row, Peterson & Co., 1912), pp. 325-327.

²⁵*Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction of Texas, 1916-1918.*



First Boy Scout troop, 1917.

Back row left to right:

Rollo Price; Earl B. Pinson; Sherman Warren; L. B. Plummer, Scoutmaster;
Clyde Thompson; Paul Otis Wilhite.

Front row: Lambert Price; Young Price; James D. Carter; Robbie Marshall.
Bottom: Edgar Marshall.

Price, Earl B. Pinson, Nelson Warren, and Edgar Marshall. Mascots were: Tommy Winters, James Carter, and Young Price.

These ingenious mascots were determined to out-scout the regulars and added trapping to their activities. They persuaded Clyde Thompson, a regular, to go along. True, they had only one trap, but with their thorough knowledge of animal habits, it proved to be enough. On their first visit to the headwaters of Perkins Branch, they found the habitat of what appeared to be a very large animal, and carefully placed the trap. The next morning's visit was an eventful one, with surprising and effective results. Disconsolately, they turned their faces homeward but the breezes preceded them. Firmly, from behind closed doors, they were told to stay out of the house. Fresh clothes were thrown out the window, but still a very definite odor continued to attend their presence. They lost their standing with the "regulars" and were not too popular at school.

Plummer, deeply interested in the welfare and training of the boys, led them in the full program of Scouting, several passing tests for the different classes, Tenderfoot, Second, and First classes, with some merit badges earned and awarded.

1918-19 Trustees

D. H. Carter, Pres.

J. W. Burney, Secty.

D. Blair, Treas.

Scholastic Apportionment

Tax

\$919.00

717.66

\$1,636.66

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
Horace Poteet, Principal	\$100.00
Miss Nannie Winters	50.00
Miss Bessie Winters	50.00
Miss Annie Sawyer	60.00

With increased funds provided by the increased local tax, the trustees were again able to maintain a six-months term of school, with four teachers. The passage of the compulsory school attendance law pointed out that free textbooks should be furnished. Consequently, a law to that effect was passed, to become effective with the beginning of the 1919-20 school year.²⁶ For the first time, the children of the state were provided with free textbooks. Before this, if parents were financially unable to provide books, the children had to borrow from the more fortunate and often had to go without means to prepare lessons, thus contributing to the inefficiency of the school. The school age was also changed to from seven to eighteen years.²⁷

In the summer of 1918, under the leadership of Horace Poteet, Scoutmaster, a three-night camping venture was planned and carried out by the Boy Scouts. The camp was located on the branch below the schoolhouse, near its entrance into Langford's branch. The boys had saved a small sum of money which was augmented by donation for this venture. The camp was set up, the daily schedule outlined, and assignments made for various details in servicing the camp. Two patrols, with their leaders, were located about a camp center. The schedules were varied, but the routine of activities was about the same. The daily program in addition to the set time for rising, meals, and retiring provided for: Study of Scout law and oath, general program for Boy Scouts, field trips, contests, games, and taking of tests. Also, a simple military drill was used. (World War I was then in progress.) The boys entered into this project rather enthusiastically. The camp closed with a "Field Day." A program was prepared, parents were invited, basket lunches were brought, and the camp came to a happy ending. The events of the day consisted mainly of tests, track events, and at noon a generous lunch was spread and thoroughly enjoyed. The boys took a lively interest in Scouting, which was encouraged by the parents, and the activity was carried on into the winter when, due to bad weather and closing of school on account of an influenza epidemic, the interruption of the program was so frequent that interest lagged, and the troop became inactive. The lessons taught, the experiences shared, and the ties of friendship formed in these

²⁶*Ibid.*, pp. 203-204.

²⁷E. C. Barker, C. S. Potts, C. W. Ramsdell, *A School History of Texas* (Chicago: Row, Peterson & Co., 1912), p. 325.

early years have continued not just as a childhood memory but also as a golden strand that holds these boys united as "Scouts" in adult citizenship.

1919-20 Trustees

D. H. Carter, Pres.

J. W. Burney, Secty.

D. Blair, Treas.

D. S. Warren, E. A. Smith, C. Barkley,
and S. B. Winters.

Scholastic Apportionment	\$828.35
Tax	693.74
State Aid	475.00
	<u>\$1,997.09</u>

Teacher

Salary

R. J. Gerald, Principal

\$110.00

Miss Carrie Collier

55.00

Mrs. Alan Dehart

50.00

Miss Annie Sawyer

60.00

This year, R. J. Gerald, a home-town boy, who had gotten his elementary training and was also a former teacher in the Evant school, just returned from service in World War I, was elected to the principalship. Because he had not yet had time to buy civilian clothing, he opened school dressed in his army uniform. His military training probably contributed to the fact that he was one of the best disciplinarians ever to head the school at Evant.

Under the State Aid Law passed in 1915, the school received State Aid for the first time.²⁸

1920-21 Trustees

E. A. Smith, Pres.

D. H. Carter, Secty.

J. V. Piper, Treas.

S. B. Winters, C. Barkley, D. S. Warren,
and R. L. Chapman.

Scholastic Apportionment	\$1,724.25
Tax	879.21
State Aid	1,000.00
	<u>\$3,603.46</u>

Teacher

Salary

R. J. Gerald, Principal

\$176.00

Mrs. R. J. Gerald

96.00

Mrs. Lona Burney

85.00

Miss Annie Sawyer

96.00

²⁸Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction of Texas, 1916-1918, pp. 546-547.

1921-22 Trustees

E. A. Smith, Pres.

D. H. Carter, Secty.

J. V. Piper, Treas.

J. L. Lester, A. O. Arnold, J. H.

White, and S. B. Winters

7-month term

Scholastic Apportionment

\$1,714.00

Tax

867.51

State Aid

400.00

\$2,981.51*Teacher**Salary*

R. J. Gerald, Principal

125.00¹135.00²

Mrs. R. J. Gerald

75.00¹85.00²

Miss Fleta Thompson

75.00¹85.00²

Miss Mabel Winters

75.00¹85.00²

Mrs. Lona Burney

85.00¹95.00²

Through the years since its completion in 1892, there had been no major improvement or enlargement of the school building. The increase in population had, of course, brought an increase in enrollment of the school, and the need—nay, the necessity—for an enlarged building became so pressing that it could no longer be ignored. In 1921, a bond election for \$10,000.00, to provide the necessary funds for the enlargement, was called and carried almost unanimously. These bonds were 40-year bonds, bearing 6 per cent interest. One bond, valued at \$1,000.00, matured every four years. A construction company at Fort Worth submitted plans and was awarded a contract for the construction of five classrooms and a balcony in the auditorium with the necessary entrance halls. A classroom 30 x 22 feet was joined to both the north and south ends of the auditorium. Three other classrooms, each 28 x 21 feet, separated by two 8-foot entrance halls, extended the entire length of the west side of the building. This addition to the original stone building was constructed of brick and plastered inside.

At the request of certain residents of Mt. View District Number 16 in Lampasas County, a strip of land was detached and added to the Evant Independent School District.²⁹ This request was readily granted by the Lampasas County Board because of hard-

¹For three months.²For four months.²⁹Records of the Commissioners Court of Coryell County, Book H, p. 116.

ship to small children in the longer distance to be traversed in reaching the Mt. View school. The territory thus added to the Evant Independent School District included the Will Kinsey, Frank



Building after addition of 1921.

Gholson, Roy Gholson, Wright Alexander, George Sneed, Vernon Favers, and perhaps some other places. This was the first territorial acquisition to the original Evant Independent School District.

For the second time in the history of the school, there were to be graduating exercises and diplomas presented, to a class of eight—three boys and five girls: Clyde Thompson, James Carter, Woody Burney, Blanche Smith, Gladys Preston, Christine Burney, Lowell Burney, and Madeline Stoddard. In the intervening eighteen years since the presentation of diplomas to the class of 1903-04, many students may have completed the work offered, but there were no certificates of graduation presented. The Evant-school, under the new classification of 1917, was a Class B school completing tenth grade work. The curriculum at this time was: Algebra, Literature, History, Civics, and Latin. Some of these graduates attempted to enter junior college the following year, and to their keen disappointment and utter dismay found that a bouquet of flowers in one hand and a diploma from a Class B school in the other were insufficient qualifications to enter, much less stay. Some did take the examinations and did enter by carrying work to make up the deficiency, but because of this handicap and extra work it took three instead of two years to graduate. This experience brought to the parents, as well as the students, the realization of the inadequacy of a Class B school to prepare one for college.

1922-23. Same Trustees.

7-month term, 104 scholastics.



Second class to receive diplomas,
with their teacher, R. J. Gerald,
1922

Back row, left to right: Woody Burney, James D. Carter, R. J. Gerald, principal,
Clyde Thompson.

Front row: Blanche Smith, Christine Burney, Gladys Preston, Madeline Stoddard,
Lowell Burney.

Scholastic Apportionment	\$1,444.14
Tax	828.67
	<hr/> \$2,272.81

No State Aid.

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
W. E. Heatly, Principal	\$125.00
Mrs. W. E. Heatly	75.00
Miss Fleta Thompson	60.00
Mrs. Lona Burney	75.00

Heatly was the second home-town boy who had attended the Evant school for his elementary training to be elected to the principalship of the school. Also, two of his assistants, Mrs. Lona Burney and Miss Fleta Thompson, were former students in the school.

1923-24 Trustees

D. H. Carter, Pres.

E. A. Smith, Secty.

M. J. Broyles, J. E. Dixon, E. T.

Brooks, J. L. Lester, J. F. Marshall.

7-month term, 116 scholastics.

Scholastic Apportionment	\$1,445.07
Tax	914.77
State Aid	920.00
	<u>\$3,279.84</u>
<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
Miss Ollie Preston, Principal	\$125.00
Miss Mary McKinley	75.00
Mrs. Fleta Sawyer	60.00
Miss Laura Powell	85.00

This year, another former pupil, Miss Ollie Preston, was elected principal, thus attaining the distinction of being the only lady ever to hold that position in the Evant School.

Miss Ollie emphasized to the student body the importance of an education and the joy of learning. She required that any task assigned be finished thoroughly and with painstaking care. She was a strict disciplinarian, but rarely resorted to the use of the rod. Shortly after the beginning of school, one young man about sixteen years old, thinking he could take with a smile any discipline administered by a mere woman, wilfully and boastingly broke a rule. Considering this a necessary time for use of the rod, Miss Ollie started the lesson. He did smile, manfully, through the use of the first switch, but before the second had worn down to convenient length, the smile had changed to a look of endurance, and when she reached for the third switch, he quickly raised the flag of unconditional surrender. There were no more "guinea pigs" offered. There were twelve graduates this term. (See Appendix, 1924.)

1924-25. Same Trustees.

7-month term, 102 scholastics.

Scholastic Apportionment	\$1,522.75
Tax	929.93
State Aid	650.00
	<u>\$3,102.68</u>

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
Miss Ollie Preston, Principal	\$130.00
Miss Evelyn Gholson	75.00
Miss Christine Burney	75.00
Mrs. Lona Burney	100.00

This term was highlighted by the addition to the curriculum of a branch of Home Economics, consisting of classes in Foods, Clothing, Woodwork and Basketry. Miss Ollie, knowing that in addition to her work as principal and high school teacher, she would also have the added classes in Woodwork and Basketry, applied for the course at Southwest Texas State Teachers College at San Marcos. Upon learning that she was the only lady in the class,



Miss Ollie Preston,
Principal, 1923-24.

she felt humiliated and cried. However, encouraged by her teacher, she took the course. Some boys, who later chose construction as their life's work and who obtained their first training in this class are Terrell Marshall, Melvin Long, and Edgar Smith. Others in the class were: O. C. Baker and Marion T. Smith. They began the course by making broom holders, book racks, pedestals, and footstools, some of which were exhibited at the Interscholastic Meet at Gatesville. The reed for the basketry work was ordered from Boston, Massachusetts.

In addition to her regular work as primary teacher, Mrs. Lona Burney was also Foods teacher. Miss Christine Burney, in addition to her third and fourth grade work, taught the Clothing class. Vocational training in the public schools was still in its infancy, and

the equipment furnished for its teaching was scanty indeed. The state-furnished equipment for Foods teaching was an oil cook stove, dishes, a few cooking vessels, and pans. In the Evant School, there was not even running water, and no sink of any type. The Clothing department had only a sewing machine, and the Wood-work class had only small hand tools, hammers, saws, levels, and screw drivers. Today, the inadequacy of such primitive equipment would be apparent at once.

"Field Days," "County Meets," and other programs were still observed, and it was customary for schools to have "booths" where the various activities were exhibited. On one occasion, Kirby Warren (later a teacher in the school) baked and exhibited a cake, receiving much commendation, as this accomplishment was rare indeed for a young man.

There were twelve graduates. (See Appendix, 1925)

1925-26. Same trustees, with one exception: D. H. Carter, having moved out of the district, was replaced by the appointment of W. A. Wilhite.

Scholastic Apportionment	\$1,719.19
Tax	947.28
State Aid	750.00
	<hr/> \$3,416.47

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
Miss Ollie Preston, Principal	\$135.00
Jim Forrest	100.00
Mrs. T. C. Sawyer	87.50
Miss Christine Burney	87.50

The year's work was carried on with the same painstaking care, but, at its close, Miss Ollie, having decided that the responsibility of the principalship was more than she cared to assume, requested the Board to relieve her of its duties. With regret, her request was complied with, the Board assigning her the position of first assistant, which position she accepted for one year, then resigned. After four years, at the request of the Board, she again accepted employment in the school, and has been on the faculty continuously for the past twenty-one years, and is still a member for the 1952-53 term. Such long and distinguished service deserves the gratitude of the district, and all the love lavished on her by the many boys and girls who have had the pleasure of being her pupils.

There were eight graduates. (See Appendix, 1926.)

1926-27. Same Trustees. 104 Scholastics.

Scholastic Apportionment	\$1,679.79
Tax	1,274.49
State Aid	780.00
	<hr/> \$3,734.28

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
S. L. Reeves, Principal	\$150.00
Laymon Miller	100.00
Miss Reba Everett	85.00
Miss Beulah Hatley	85.00
Miss Annie Sawyer	90.00

This year, the eleventh grade was added to the curriculum. Because of this added grade, the entire graduating class of 1927 re-entered school, this year receiving a diploma of graduation for completion of the eleventh grade. This class holds the unique honor of receiving two diplomas of graduation from the same school. There were nine graduates. (See Appendix, 1927, 1928.)

1928-29. Same Trustees. 106 Scholastics.	
Scholastic Apportionment	\$3,000.00
Tax	1,570.00
State Aid	1,028.00
	<u>\$5,598.00</u>

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
S. L. Reeves, Principal	\$155.00
J. A. Stockburger	135.00
Miss Thelma Dicky	90.00
Miss Cleora Moore	90.00
Miss Annie Sawyer	95.00

1929-30 Trustees
 E. A. Smith, Pres.
 Truett Thompson, Secty.

Scholastics	150
Transfers	16
	<u>166</u>
Scholastic Apportionment	\$2,506.42
Tax	1,713.38
State Aid	640.00
	<u>\$4,859.80</u>

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
Laymon Miller, Principal	135.00
Mrs. Acenith Wilson	100.00
Miss Antha Wolfe	100.00
Mrs. Helen Hardwicke	95.00
Miss Annie Sawyer	100.00
Miss Bessie Gilbreath, private music teacher	

This year, the Henderson Point School transferred to Evant, pending action for consolidation, which was voted unanimously, September 8, 1930. A bus owned and operated by O. Z. Wilson was used to transport the Henderson Point pupils to and from school. There was no state free transportation at this time.

Miss Bessie Gilbreath, private teacher of music, voice, and expression, was very active in assisting the school, rendering many beautiful programs. She was an exceptional teacher, and some of her pupils made outstanding progress under her direction. Two pupils, Johnie Myrtle West, age fourteen years, and Evelyn White, age fifteen years, were entered in competition in voice at the Interscholastic Music Meet of Texas at Howard-Payne College, Brownwood. Each girl was slated for two numbers, classical and semi-classical. Neither had ever seen a microphone, much less appeared before one, and the thought of that ordeal rendered them almost inarticulate. Evelyn was the fourth contestant called, and was so appalled when she reached the "mike" that Miss Bessie had to play the prelude twice before she could gain courage to sing. Her songs were "Felice," classical, and "Sunrise and You," semi-classical. Johnie Myrtle was the sixteenth contestant called and had gained a little more composure for her appearance. Her songs were "This Is My Song," classical, and "Danny Boy," semi-classical. When the contest was over, the awards were announced. Johnie Myrtle won first place in the semi-classical division with "Danny Boy"—her award, a gold medal. Evelyn won second place in the classical division with "Felice"—her award, a silver medal. The girls were so overwhelmed at the announcement that they sat as motionless as stalagmites. Not so their teacher, who gave voice and action to her delight. In her excitement as she ran swiftly down the aisle, she scattered the contents of her purse, which contained much silver. Her proteges responded quickly to the urgent touch of their teacher, went to the microphone, received their awards, and a very hearty applause. Thanks to Clyde White and the assistance of the audience, all the scattered contents of the purse were re-assembled.

There were eight graduates. (See Appendix, 1930.)

1930-31. Same Trustees. Scholastics	189
Transfers	8
	<hr/> 197
Scholastic Apportionment .	\$3,090.70
Tax	1,566.89
State Aid	1,029.00
	<hr/> \$5,686.59
<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
Laymon Miller, Principal	\$150.00
Mrs. Acenith Wilson	97.00
Miss Antha Wolfe	97.00
Mrs. Helen Hardwicke	97.00
Travis Todd	95.00
Miss Annie Sawyer	107.00
Miss Bessie Gilbreath, private music teacher.	

O. Z. Wilson was again employed to furnish and operate the bus to transport pupils from the added Henderson Point territory. There were nine graduates. (See Appendix, 1931.)

1931-32 Trustees	Scholastics	165
E. A. Smith, Pres.		
Truett Thompson, Secty.		
G. R. Gresham, E. Christian, E. T.		
Brooks, A. M. Sparks, Arch Armstrong.		
Scholastic Apportionment		\$2,844.80
Tax		1,752.81
State Aid		1,360.00
		<u>\$5,957.61</u>

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
P. K. Humes, Principal	\$150.00
Miss Ollie Preston	95.00
Mrs. Antha Burney	95.00
J. C. Elam	95.00
Mrs. Helen Hardwicke	95.00
Miss Annie Sawyer	105.00
Nine graduates. (See Appendix, 1932.)	

1932-33 Trustees	Scholastics	173
J. Y. Hamilton, Pres.		
J. M. Broyles, Secty.		
A. O. Arnold, Treas.		
G. R. Gresham, A. M. Sparks, F. C.		
Christian, J. L. Lester.		

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
P. K. Humes, Principal	\$140.00
J. C. Elam	85.00
Mrs. Helen Hardwicke	85.00
Mrs. Antha Burney	85.00
Miss Ollie Preston	85.00
Miss Annie Sawyer	95.00
Scholastic Apportionment	\$2,365.50
Tax	1,152.89
State Aid	1,695.00
	<u>\$4,213.39</u>

This year, the local tax rate had been raised to .70. There were ten graduates. (See Appendix, 1933.)

1933-34. Same Trustees.	Scholastics	151
8-month term.		
Scholastic Apportionment		\$2,333.35
Tax		682.08
State Aid		947.00
		<u>\$3,962.43</u>

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
P. K. Humes, Principal	\$110.00
J. C. Elam	75.00
Mrs. Antha Burney	75.00
Miss Ollie Preston	75.00
Miss Zelma Scott	75.00
Miss Annie Sawyer	85.00

The tax rate for this year had been lowered to .60. There were ten graduates. (See Appendix, 1934.)

One activity of this year was the organization under Miss Zelma Scott of a Rhythm Band composed of children from the first to fourth grades. This and other like activities are very important in the early days of childhood, combining instruction with pleasure, teaching not only the value of time and pace, but also the necessity of cooperation and teamwork to accomplish any worthwhile result. Like a flame in dry tinder, the spirit of rhythm possessed these children, and they were beautiful, too, in their harmonizing uniforms.

At the close of this year's term, one of our most beloved and efficient primary teachers, Miss Annie Sawyer, retired from the teaching profession after having given fifteen years of important service to her hometown school.

Chapter X

COOPERATION

1934-35. Same Trustees.

8-month term.

.50 tax rate.

Scholastic Apportionment

\$2,443.28

Tax

597.75

State Aid

1,119.20

\$4,180.23

Teacher

Salary

James D. Carter, Principal

\$125.00

Kirby J. Warren

90.00

Miss Lucile Welch

90.00

Miss Zelma Scott

90.00

Miss Maida Hudson

90.00

Miss Ollie Preston

80.00

Miss Tressie Meharg

80.00

Mrs. Rosa Avery

80.00

2 School buses

Again a home-town boy, James D. Carter, was elected to the position of principal. A graduate of the class of 1922, who had struggled through the handicap of an insufficient foundation, his experience had crystallized his determination, given the opportunity, to build a high school in his home town second to none. Graduating from John Tarleton Agricultural College at Stephenville in 1925, and taking his B.S. degree from North Texas State Teachers College on August 25, 1931, he began his teaching career as principal in public schools located in different sections of the state in 1926, continuing therein for the intervening eight years. He began his work for the Evant School in June, 1934. The school at this time was classified as a rural school, Class B, had not been standardized, and the district did not have enough high school students to meet minimum requirements of the State Department of Education for an affiliated school, which was the goal set to achieve. The history of progress in any institution has always been preceded by a vision of that progress, and its ultimate effect upon the institution and its members, conceived in the mind of someone deeply interested in the welfare of its future. The first and most important task was to weave this vision into a true pattern of immediate reality. There were numerous called meetings lasting far into the night, as well as many day consultations with the Board of Trustees, who not only had appreciated the vision and unanimously accepted the task



James D. Carter.

set before them, but had also pledged to a man, their undivided support and cooperation. The first step toward the consummation of this program was standardization. All state requirements were met and the school standardized in September, 1934. The two major problems now facing classification were state-required qualification of faculty and required minimum number of high school students. The Board had already employed teachers to fill specified positions, not taking into consideration state requirements for classification. Fortunately, they did have enough properly qualified teachers for the high school to meet requirements, if proper assignments were made. Now comes a great example of faculty understanding and cooperation. One lady, holding a B.A. degree from The University of Texas and with some years of teaching experience, had been selected to teach primary work, which she liked very much; another, with insufficient collegiate credits and little experi-

ence, was employed for high school work, which she preferred. Nevertheless, in order that she might contribute to school progress, each sacrificed her preference and willingly accepted the necessary assignment. With this perfect cooperation of the faculty, the next step up to the Principal was that of securing at least the required minimum of high school students. To solve this problem, an agreement was reached with the Cow House Common School District whereby the entire school of perhaps thirty pupils, together with the teacher already employed, were transferred to the Evant School. The teacher, Miss Ollie Preston, who from personal experience was well acquainted with the school situation in both communities, readily agreed and pledged full cooperation in this transfer, a move promising better educational opportunities for the students involved. Since the enactment of the compulsory school law and provision for free textbooks in 1918-20, there had been set up a system of free transportation by bus, but this service had not heretofore been initiated in Central Texas. In this agreement of transfer with the Cow House School, the Evant School Board promised to maintain a safe and comfortable bus for transporting the pupils to and from school. At this time, there were no Farm-to-Market roads, and most of the byroads, which of necessity had to be traveled, had little improvements. Some of the roads were very infrequently used by automobiles, even in the best of weather. However, the commissioners courts of the three counties involved, Hamilton, Coryell, and Lampasas, realizing the importance of the system, despite limited budgets, furnished county tools, hauled rock and caliche, made the necessary fills, and did other work to make these impassable places adequate for the buses to travel in all kinds of weather. This system of free transportation was so revolutionary and so successful in operation that its importance in protecting children from the hazards incident to long distances to and from school became immediately apparent. Principals and boards of all the surrounding schools, realizing and measuring its significance to the future of rural schools, began to formulate plans to inaugurate the system in their own districts. Many consultations were held with the Principal of the Evant School to discuss organizational, operational, and legal details. As a result of this agreement with the Cow House School, the required student body was enrolled in September for the type of school planned. The contract between the two schools was, by agreement, only temporary, pending action for consolidation, which was consummated January 14, 1935.³⁰ In the consolidation, Evant assumed the 30-year, 6 per cent bond issue of \$3,500, with \$1,550 outstanding, and acquired the practically new brick Cow

³⁰Records of the Coryell County Commissioners Court, Book G, p. 330.

House School building. Under guidance of State Superintendent L. A. Woods classification of all schools was changed from A, B, or C, to simply accredited or nonaccredited schools.

Attention of the Principal was now given to formulating long-time plans, to effect uniformity and guidance for coordination of all efforts toward reaching the ultimate goal of affiliation. These plans, when typed, covered 169 pages, including among other requirements the basic minimum curriculum put out by the State Department of Education, as follows:

1st year high school: English, Elementary Algebra, General Science, and Early European History.

2nd year high school: English, Advanced Algebra, Advanced Agriculture for boys, Home Economics for girls (not vocational), and Modern European History.

3rd year high school: American Literature, Plane Geometry, United States History, and Spanish Grammar.

4th year high school: English Literature, Advanced Spanish, Civics, Advanced Arithmetic, and Commercial Law.

A copy of these plans was given each member of the faculty for study before the beginning of school. With the opening of school, the Principal frankly told the high school student body exactly what he was trying to do, and why, outlining what was expected of them in carrying out these plans. Few had ever attended an affiliated school and most all were miserably deficient in English grammar and fundamental arithmetic. Nevertheless, they settled down with scarcely an exception to try to do the job laid out for them. Let us relax for a moment and listen to an incident illustrative of this supreme effort: Johnnie West, who had recently moved into the community, enrolled about midterm, and was given as part of his work a course in Plane Geometry taught by Carter. On several occasions, it was noted that Johnnie disapproved of the assignments made and the perfection of mastery expected. Finally, his exasperation reached the vocal stage, and he exclaimed, "My heavens, I've never been anywhere but in an affiliated school, and I've never seen anything like it!" However, after receiving an explanation of the reason for the requirement, Johnnie never again voiced a complaint and became one of the most cooperative and high ranking students of the school.

Much has already been said about adult cooperation in building the school, and truly it was an important factor, but if the boys and girls had failed to do their part, plans for the school would have gotten exactly—nowhere. "Their patience with low grades, biting criticism of what they thought were their best efforts, and constant importunity to do more, and better work, deserves a generous tribute from the man who could not be satisfied with

anything less than perfection, and it is here given, in fullest measure." Another major problem facing the administration at this time arose from the discovery that from carelessness—which is the first cousin of maliciousness—all the records and minute books of the school had been destroyed, and also the major part of the Winnie-Celia library had disappeared. The remaining books were far too few to meet state requirements for affiliation. An appeal was made to the community for the donation of books, or money, to supplement the largest possible appropriation by the School Board. Again a fine spirit of cooperation was displayed, and a total of about \$500 was contributed for this basic library. As a result of untiring efforts and whole-hearted cooperation on the part of the trustees, faculty, and pupils, by December, 1934, the school was ready for inspection by the State Department of Education for classification, which step would pave the way for affiliation. Deputy Superintendent Garner (nephew of John Nance Garner) made the inspection and readily granted classification, insisting that a trial for some units of affiliation be made in the spring of 1935. This meant that many difficulties had to be met and overcome and entailed still more strenuous effort and continued wholehearted cooperation of teachers and pupils, but with the spring came Garner. The school was notified the day before the expected visit and told to be on its toes and ready to answer questions. It was an all-day job. The first class visited was American Literature under Miss Lucile Welch. In this situation, it was quite natural for the teacher to show off her strongest students. Catherine Austin, now Mrs. Jack Elam, was one of the very best, pretty, attractive, and a flashy performer in the schoolroom, answering about every third question. The next class visited was General Science, under Kirby Warren. Catherine repeated her performance. The next class visited found the Principal deliberately trying to prevent Catherine from being so conspicuous. The second-year Spanish class under Miss Zelma Scott was the next one visited, and here Marguerite Allen co-starred with Catherine. The Civics class, under Carter, followed, and upon leaving, Garner leaned over and whispered, "They sure do give that Catherine hell, don't they."

The result of the inspection brought its reward for all the effort put forth in that the school was granted thirteen and one-half units of affiliation, as follows:

Units	Subject	Teacher
3	English	Miss Lucile Welch, B.A. (UT)
3	Algebra and Plane Geometry	James D. Carter, B.S. (NTSTC)
3	History	James D. Carter, B.S.
½	Advanced Arithmetic	James D. Carter, B.S.
½	Commercial Law	James D. Carter, B.S.
½	Economics	Miss Zelma Scott, B.A. (Baylor)
1	Spanish	Miss Zelma Scott, B.A.
1	General Science	Kirby J. Warren, B.S. (SWTSTC)
1	Biology	Kirby J. Warren, B.S.

At the conclusion of his inspection, Garner remarked that he had never seen so much improvement in so short a time, nor had he ever known a school to achieve so many units on its first try. Had he only known it, this accomplishment was only the natural consequence of what can be achieved when resolute determination is coupled with untiring effort and hearty cooperation. The Principal and faculty deserve much credit, the School Board some, the parents and citizenship some, but if it had not been for the many little Catherines, Marguerites, Sallys, and Janes, and Johnnies, Jimmies and Joes, who dug in and continued to dig, this shining page of the school's history could not have been written. They gave maximum application and presented the finished product. All honor to these students who placed this star, another affiliated school, in the canopy of High Schools. This year, graduates wishing to enter college took state entrance examinations, and the fact that none failed reflected the high quality of work maintained by the faculty. Miss Scott continued her Rhythm Band activity with encouragement from both administration and parents, rendering many interesting and appreciated programs. There were ten graduates. (See Appendix, 1935.)

1935-36 Trustees

J. Y. Hamilton, Pres.

J. M. Broyles, Secty.

A. O. Arnold, Treas.

J. L. Lester, F. C. Christian, G. R.

Gresham, A. M. Sparks.

8¾-month term.	Tax rate,	.50
Scholastics		199
Transfers		201
		<u>400</u>
5 school buses.		
Scholastic Apportionment		\$3,477.25
Tax		1,543.60
State Aid		1,770.00
		<u>6,790.85</u>

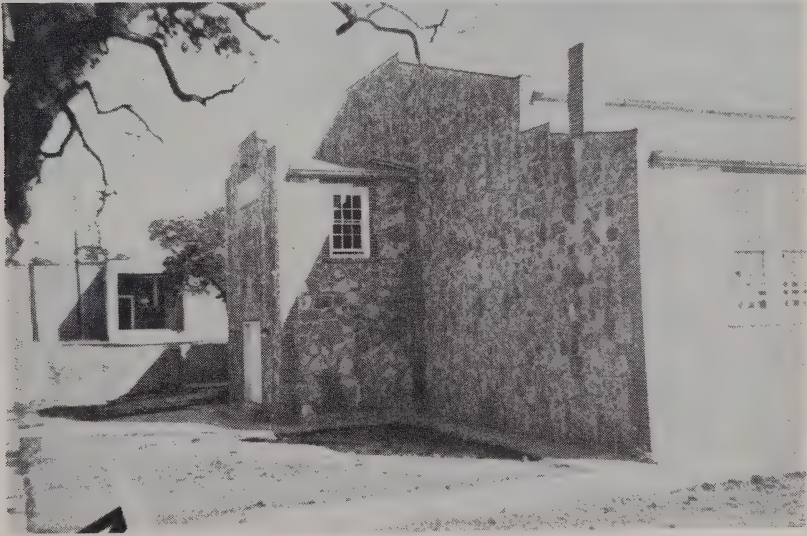
<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
James D. Carter, Principal	\$132.50
Kirby J. Warren	87.50
Miss Lucile Welch	92.50
Miss Zelma Scott	92.50
Miss Ollie Preston	90.00
Mrs. Rosa Avery	95.00
Miss Tressie Meharg	90.00
Mrs. J. C. Lee	87.50
Elza O'Neal	85.00

The Superintendent visited boards of trustees and parents in all the surrounding communities, pointing out the advantages of an affiliated school and asking for cooperation and the transfer of at least the high school students to Evant, promising bus service to transport the students. One school, Mt. View in Lampasas County, transferred the entire school, with two teachers, Mrs. J. C. Lee and Elza O'Neal. Other schools, Fairview, Cottonwood, Shive, Liberty, and Purnela, cooperated and as a result transfers for this year jumped from 14 in 1934 to 201 in 1935. As a result of consolidation with Cow House School in January, 1935, the scholastic enrollment was increased from 159 in 1934 to 199 in 1935, making an enrollment of 400 for the year 1935-36. The teaching staff also was increased, to nine. Because of this increased enrollment, it had now become necessary completely to reorganize the physical plant of the school. The largest room in the building, which was the first stone building erected and previously referred to as the "Primary Room," was converted into a study hall; an automatic bell system was installed, and class schedules were set at 45-minute periods. Teachers and students retired from study hall to classrooms in accordance with scheduled classes. This was the first time for either study hall or scheduled classes in the Evant School. For convenience, the library facilities were moved into the study hall. It was quite evident that complete renovation of the entire school plant was necessary, and plans for this renovation as well as for the erection of a combination gymnasium and auditorium to contain one classroom and modern rest room facilities for both boys and girls began to mature, this being the first installation of these very necessary conveniences. This new building program required a bond issue to secure the necessary funds, and after consideration it was deemed that a \$5,000 bond issue would be sufficient, as the plan was to use the materials valued at \$3,000 which could be salvaged from the wrecking of the brick building acquired in the consolidation with Cow House and also to take advantage of a federal program for public works. The \$5,000 bond issue was voted, the brick Cow House school building carefully torn down, using workers on relief to do the job. The federal government

granted \$15,000 for the building of the gymnasium and \$4,000 for repair of the main building, which with the \$5,000 bond issue and \$3,000 salvaged material gave a working fund of \$27,000. The tentative plans and specifications were now drawn by the Superintendent and submitted to the W.P.A. office at Waco for approval by the Chief Engineer, whose desk at this time was a packing crate, this being the first project submitted and approved at Waco under the new W.P.A. program. James Baugh of Waco drafted the final plans from these sketches, charging \$25.00 and room and board for about a week while in Evant working on the job. Allen Sparks, a member of the Board and also a building contractor, was hired to superintend the labor of wrecking and cleaning the material in the Cow House school building, a bus being furnished by the Board to transport the men to and from work. An old truck was bought for \$75 to haul the salvaged material to the gymnasium site. Trucks were hired to haul sand and gravel, which had been donated, from the Faubion Crossing on the Lampasas River for 62½ cents per yard, the average load being three yards. More than 1,500 yards were used in the job. Cement was bought for 57 cents per bag laid down on the job, in carload lots, each car having a ten- to fifteen-bag surplus to take care of wastage. The dimension materials that went into the building ranged in price from \$22.50 to \$30.00 per thousand board feet. The stone for construction was all donated by the owners of the land, and that in the foundation came from an old rock fence in Jim Williams' pasture, while that for the walls came from pioneer beef pens and was donated by Eli and Ora Lester and Johnnie Arnold. The stone and gravel donated by these public-minded citizens was valued at an estimated \$2,000. The School Board employed Bob Belcher to supervise the masonry and Allen Sparks the carpentry work, each at \$5.00 per day. The Superintendent represented the School Board as their agent but drew no extra pay for either that service or when engaged in actual work, with which he assisted on many occasions. George Dutton and Luther Lester gave advice and loaned tools from their shop. Many individuals in and out of the immediate community loaned small hand tools and wheelbarrows. Purmela and Gatesville both cooperated by providing additional men to help carry on the work as fast as the government wanted it done. Evant Brooks gave material aid in arranging the financing and, in fact, no man, woman, or child in or out of the community failed to give generously and cheerfully of their time, materials, and tools to help the School Board stretch their skimpy resources as far as possible.

The stage equipment contract called for an outlay of \$465.00 installed. There was no money in the treasury to pay for this

necessary item; so, again, cooperation was asked for in an advertising scheme to raise the necessary funds. The fact that the ads on only one curtain—subscribed by the business men of the town during a period of depression—raised the necessary amount shows the extent of the cooperation received from these men. The roof was of V-crimp sheet metal and cost \$4.50 per square for 112 squares. The construction of the walls was watched with considerable interest, being a new venture in construction. The rear wall, a little over 40 feet high, was at that time the highest of any known flagstone wall in the United States. Of course, in a construction job of this magnitude, problems arose that had to be solved and difficulties appeared that had to be overcome, but with



Gymnasium and Auditorium.

the determination and cooperation exhibited in the construction of this building, the job was complete and the gymnasium ready for use the term of 1935-36 at an over-all cost of \$18,400.

On opening night, the Star School basketball team met the Evant team in one of the most interesting and hotly contested games of the season, Evant winning by only a few points.

The repair work on the school building, for which a government grant of \$4,000 had been obtained, consisted mainly of the removal of the upper story of the original stone building, with its balcony, reroofing the entire building, and the division of the original 32 x 56 foot auditorium into one class room (approximately 21 x 26 feet), two storage closets (approximately 10 x 12 and 9 x 10 feet, respectively), one hall (12 x 56 feet), a second hall (8 x 32 feet),

and a third hall (12 x 32 feet). Some re-arranging of doors and windows, replastering, and other minor changes and necessary repair work were also included. Bodies of the buses used for transportation of materials were built by John Laughlin in the shop of George Dutton and Luther Lester. To supply sufficient water for this



Building after removal of upper story.

building program and to provide for the needs of the school, it was necessary to develop an adequate water system. Businessmen in the community organized a joint-stock company to provide the capital. The school, being the only agency in the community that could deal with the federal government, assumed the responsibility of sponsoring the project, taking thirteen shares, \$325.00 worth, of the stock. The idea was for the school to own enough of the stock for the dividends to pay its water bill. This was the beginning of the public water system in Evant.

The same curriculum was followed as in 1934-35, and the three units needed to complete full affiliation were granted as follows:

4th year, English Literature, 1 unit. Teacher, Miss Lucile Welch, B.A. (UT)

2nd year, Spanish, 1 unit. Teacher, Miss Zelma Scott, B.A. (Baylor)

Civil Government, $\frac{1}{2}$ unit. Teacher, Miss Zelma Scott, B.A.

Bookkeeping, $\frac{1}{2}$ unit. Teacher, Miss Zelma Scott, B.A.

This completed the sixteen and one-half units required by the state for a fully accredited, nine-month high school. Only one dissenting voice was ever heard in the community. One man, when informed that the school had attained affiliation and would henceforth have a straight nine-month term, remarked: "That James Carter has sure ruined our school. Now we won't be able to use the children to pick cotton at all."

There were nine graduates this year. (See Appendix, 1936.)
 1936-37. Same Trustees, with the exception that W. T. Michael took the place of Fred Christian.

Scholastic Apportionment	\$5,287.50
Tax	1,024.35
State Aid	3,192.00
	<hr/>
	\$9,503.85
 Scholastics	 224
Transfers	267
	<hr/>
	491
 <i>Teacher</i>	 <i>Salary</i>
James D. Carter, Superintendent	\$143.00
Kirby J. Warren	93.50
Miss Zelma Scott	101.00
Miss Lucile Welch	101.00
Miss Ollie Preston	100.00
Miss Tressie Meharg	97.50
Mrs. Rosa Avery	105.00
Mrs. J. C. Lee	95.00
Elza O'Neal	90.00
7 school buses.	
Tax rate .50	

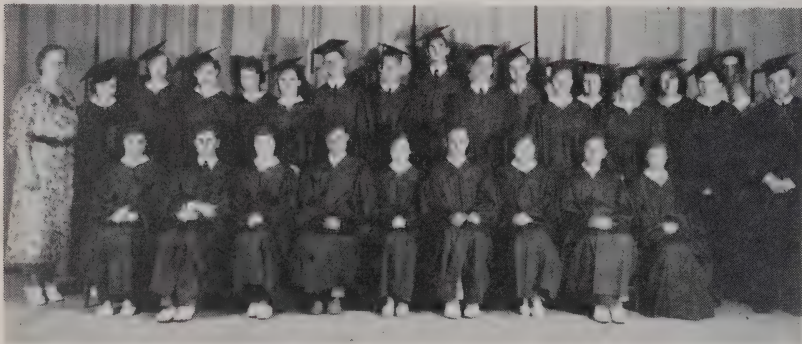
This term, the school opened as a full sixteen and one-half unit, nine-month high school, and for the first time its graduates could look forward to entrance into college without preliminary examination. Also, perhaps because of this fact, and the further expansion of the transportation system, there was another addition of student attendance, when the Mt. View District again transferred the entire school. An increase of 91 students over the previous year made an enrollment of 491, the greatest in the history of the school. Seven buses were required for transportation.

Because of emphasis on the build-up of curriculum for affiliation and the wide extent of plant improvement in the preceding two years, little has been said of athletic and other activities. However, these kept pace with the growth and improvements of the school. Many outstanding programs were rendered, and students won many contests, both in the literary and athletic fields at the "Field Days" and the Interscholastic Meet held regularly at Gatesville, the county seat. Marguerite Allen won a scholarship at Rice Institute and after graduation attended that university. In the athletic field, Sidney Goff set two state records for Class B schools in the state Track and Field Meet at Denton, winning the pole vault and 440 yard race. Willie Dee Warren won first place in the javelin throw.

Much thought and effort were given this year to further improve and complete the organizational work of the school. At the close

of this term, having devoted three years of intensive study and effort to achieving affiliation for the school and having reached his goal, Carter, for personal reasons wishing to leave the teaching profession at least for a time, resigned.

There were twenty-two graduates in this year's class. (See Appendix, 1937.)



First graduating class to wear caps and gowns,
1937.

Top row, left to right: Miss Ollie Preston (teacher), Miss Lucile Welch (teacher), Yvonne Thompson, Rowena Blackwell, Meta Frasure, Naomi Kelly, Raymond Donald, Clyde Elam, Brents Broyles, Elbert Cox, Johnnie West, Willie Nora Michael, Ovie Shaw, Pauline Spradling, Johnie Ruth Smith, Miss Zelma Scott (teacher), Kirby Warren (teacher), James D. Carter (Superintendent).

Bottom row: Geraldine Curry, Robert L. Calhoun, Zina Mae Chilton, Wilson Shave, Oleta Faye Shave, Keith Brooks, Lu Evelyn Williams, Warren Hardwicke, Eldora McKinsey.

Chapter XI

TWELFTH GRADE

ADDED

1937-38 Trustees

H. Y. Hamilton, Pres.

J. M. Broyles, Secty.

A. O. Arnold, Treas.

W. T. Michael, A. M. Sparks, J. L. Lester, G. R. Gresham.

Scholastics	202
Transfers	206
	<u>408</u>

.60 tax rate

Scholastic Apportionment \$4,470.20

Tax 1,709.50

State Aid 3,588.75

\$9,768.45

Teacher

Salary

Ben O. Grant, Superintendent \$160.00

Kirby J. Warren 111.50

Miss Ollie Preston 105.00

Miss Zelma Scott 106.50

Mrs. Rosa Avery 107.50

Miss Illa B. Hoover 107.50

Mrs. E. W. Cofer 107.50

Miss Cleo Cobb 97.50

Forest Harper 101.50

Mrs. Vera Mae Itschnor 102.50

Johnnie L. Sills 92.50

This year another school, Fairview, transferred the entire school with two teachers, Mrs. Vera Mae Itschnor and Johnnie L. Sills for the school term, 1937-38. Also Mt. View again transferred for this term on April 17, 1937. Fourteen students graduated this year. (See Appendix, 1938.)

1938-39. Same Trustees.

Scholastics and transfers 320

Scholastic Apportionment \$5,723.65

.60 Tax 1,136.26

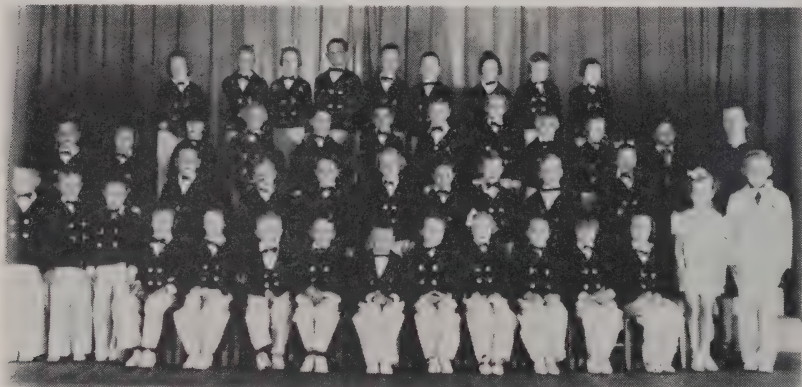
State Aid 2,845.00

\$9,704.91

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
Ben O. Grant, Superintendent	\$166.25
Mrs. Ben O. Grant	107.50
Miss Hazel Baird	104.50
A. L. McFaddin	128.25
Miss Ollie Preston	99.75
Miss Zelma Scott	107.50
Mrs. Vera Mae Itschnor	102.50
Miss Carolyn Williams	101.50
John L. Sills	95.00
Miss Illa B. Hoover	107.50
Mrs. Rosa Avery	102.00
Forest O. Harper	97.37

On March 29, 1938, Fairview Common School District 31 consolidated with Evant Independent District without a dissenting vote, and on December 22, 1938, Cottonwood Common School District 55 also consolidated with Evant.

Another bond issue of \$4,800.00 3½ per cent was voted to com-



Miss Scott's Rhythm Band of 1938-39

Top row, left to right: Laphane Davenport, Aubrey Arnold, Ruby Nell Walker, Tom Sawyer, Durwood Creacy, W. D. Brooks, Katherine Laurence, Dorothy Vinehouse, Vondean Arnold.

Second row: Gladys Rhoades, Rita Faye Griggs, Alberta Wolfe, Carroll Delton Troutt, James Moore, Ruby Nell Ballard, Ramona Blackburn, James Glover, Miss Zelma Scott (teacher).

Third row: Jim Ned Sawyer, Patsene Thompson, Troy Smith, Earnest Wigley, Lang Wayne Burney, Georgia Armstrong, Don Jackson, Royce Bailey, Douglas Conley, Iberia Jo Calhoun.

Bottom row: Robert Lee Kreid, James Nesbit, Patsy Ann Drennan, Virginia Yoakum, Jean Smith, James Creacy, Weston Allen, Harold Wolfe, Gilma Flatt, Wanda Faye Cox, Ester Jensen, LaVerne Wilhite, Peggy Monroe, Jeanell Carter, Marion Cole.

plete construction under an N.Y.A. project of a Vocational Agriculture building, one classroom, and a study hall. This term, 1938-39, the first annual, called *The Elk*, was printed, with James Inabinet,

editor; W. M. Coalson, humor editor; Juanita Spradley, secretary; Hilda Wilhite, society editor; Mary Lee Wilder, athletic and activity editor, and Noveline O'Neal, photographer. There were twenty-three graduates. (See Appendix, 1939.)

1939-40. Same Trustees with addition of Alvin Ray to the Board.

Scholastics	329
Transfers	13
	<hr/> 342

Scholastic Apportionment	\$7,266.00
Tax	2,653.37
State Aid	4,628.00
	<hr/> \$14,547.37

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
Ben O. Grant, Superintendent	\$166.25
A. L. McFaddin	90.84
Hollis Ford	69.01
John L. Sills	95.95
Forest Harper	97.37
Miss Ollie Preston	70.67
Miss Hazel Baird	74.00
Mrs. Ben O. Grant	107.50
Miss Carolyn Williams	72.38
Mrs. Vera Mae Itschnor	72.38
Mrs. A. B. Ronald, Band Director	



Girls Basketball-1939

Left to Right: B. O. Grant, Supt.; Mary Lee Wilder; Dorothy Allen; Juanita Spradley; Glenn Arnett; Nora Ella Faubion; Nila Ising; Erna Ising; Eva Sheldon; Hope Parish; Lenora Marivitz; Marjory Gholson; Lorene Kelm; Forest Harper, Coach.



Evant's First Football Team

Top row, left to right:

Wm. Coalson, Jr., Joe Walter Jones, Oliver Lindsey, Floyd McGilvray, Russel Jackson, Dub Calhoun, Gerald Armstrong.

Second row: Paul J. Billingsley, Marion Neal, James Inabinet, Ralph Stephens, A. L. McFaddin (Coach), Habert Kelm, J. D. Atchley, Junior Lester, Robert Sneed.

Bottom row: Charles Armstrong, Floyd Ray, Albert Hooker, Charles C. Longmire, Kenneth Preston, Auline Wenzel, Howard Lee Warren.

This year, for the first time at Evant, a band was organized, with Mrs. A. B. Ronald of Lampasas teaching the class and directing the band. This organization of about twenty-five members was active for two terms, after which, losing its teacher and director, it disbanded. The loss of Mrs. Ronald was deeply felt, as she had endeared herself to students, faculty, and community. Also, for the first time, a football team was organized and coached by A. L. McFaddin, twenty-two boys taking active part. (See Appendix, 1940.) There were twenty-six graduates. (See Appendix.)

1940-41. Same Trustees.

Scholastic Apportionment	\$6,033.37
Tax	2,538.56
State Aid	2,112.00
	<hr/> \$10,683.93
Scholastics	342
Transfers	9
	<hr/> 351

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
Ben O. Grant, Superintendent	\$160.00
Hollis Ford	79.36
Mrs. Vera Mae Itschnor	78.37
Miss Ollie Preston	75.25
Mrs. Cyrus Fields	78.75
J. D. Harper	68.25
John L. Sills	74.55
Miss Myrtle Faye Arnett	70.10
Mrs. Ben O. Grant	76.15
Mrs. Lois Elam	101.17



Evant High School Band
1939-1940

Top row, left to right: Mrs. Ronald, Russie Faye Kirche, Robert Norman Hamilton, Verna Terral, D. J. Smith, Mildred Cox, Gerald Armstrong, James Inabinet, Charles Carter Longmire, Margaret Putnam, La Verne Alexander.

Bottom row: Glen Dale Shaves, Albert Hooker, Harold Wayne Sawyer, Tom Carl Sawyer, Clinton Walker, Marvin Alexander, Bill Ike Manning, McNeil Griffin, J. N. Spradly, Beulah Walker, Glen Manning, Doris Jean Sawyer, Kenneth Allen Sparks, Mildred De Hart, Ona Lee, Clorece Walker.

On October 8, 1940, the School Board made a deal with Mrs. S. B. Winters for her property adjoining the school grounds for a teacherage for a consideration of \$2,200. The deal was completed and deed recorded on October 31, 1940. Also in this year the Board traded the old bus shed to the Baptist Church for a strip of land

also adjoining the school grounds. This strip was 42 feet by 80 yards long. There were eighteen graduates. (See Appendix, 1941.)

1941-42 Trustees

T. W. Winters, Pres.

Weldon Burney, Secty.

Clyde Thompson

Euel Venable, Mr. Chilton, Roy Baker, Dr. M. W. Cole

Scholastics	325
Transfers	12
	<hr/> 337

Scholastic Apportionment	\$8,829.00
Tax	2,950.00
State Aid	2,350.00
	<hr/> \$14,129.00

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
J. C. Petty, Superintendent	\$156.35
Jno. L. Sills	98.12
Mrs. J. C. Elam	76.57
Miss Ollie Preston	76.57
Mrs. Cyrus Fields	84.12
Mrs. Vera Mae Itschnor	76.87
A. L. McFaddin, Coach	83.72
Mrs. Clary	76.57
George Moser, Vocational Agriculture	177.50
Josephine Bowden, Music and Physical Education	71.62

This year the twelfth grade was added to the curriculum. With the addition of four units of affiliation in Vocational Agriculture and three units in Vocational Homemaking, the school had a total of 23½ units of affiliation. This year the Vocational Agriculture Department had only a few books for reference and only simple hand tools for shop work. There were sixteen graduates. (See Appendix, 1942.)

1942-43 Trustees

T. W. Winters, Pres.

Elmer Conley, Secty.

Clyde Thompson, Roy Baker, Mr. Meador, Jack

Inabinet, and Euel Venable

Scholastics	271
Transfers	63
	<hr/> 334

Scholastic Apportionment	\$11,575.00
Tax	5,052.10
	<hr/> \$16,627.10

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
J. C. Petty, Superintendent	\$149.65
Earl Hite, High School Principal	90.00
Mrs. T. C. Clary	76.59
Mrs. Josephine Bowden	71.62
Mrs. J. C. Elam	76.57
Miss Ollie Preston	76.57
Miss Crystal Upton	83.72
Mrs. Cyrus Fields	79.12
Mrs. Vera Mae Itschnor	76.87
J. B. Luker, Vocational Agriculture	180.00

This year, added units of affiliation were 1 in Public Speaking and $\frac{1}{2}$ in Commercial Arithmetic, and 3 units dropped were 1 in Solid Geometry and 2 in Spanish, leaving 22 units to credit of school. There were twenty-three graduates. (See Appendix, 1943.)

1943-44 Trustees

T. W. Winters, Pres.

Jack Inabinet, Secty.

J. D. Manning, R. B. Price, Roy Baker, Clyde

Thompson, Terral Marshall.

Scholastics	280
Transfers	56
	<hr/> 336
Scholastic Apportionment	\$12,860.00
Tax	5,468.05
State Aid	13,706.10
	<hr/> \$32,034.15

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
J. C. Petty, Superintendent	\$172.50
Marvin Harper	132.50
Mrs. Valma Harper	122.50
Miss Ollie Preston	122.50
Miss Wilkerson, Home Economics	163.60
Mrs. Lois Elam	122.50
Miss Crystal Upton	116.50
Mrs. Josephine Bowden	115.00
Mrs. T. C. Clary	135.00
Mrs. Lona Burney	122.50
O. A. Faith, Vocational Agriculture	200.00

This year, added units were 2 in Typing and 1 in Junior Business Training, making a total of 25 units. Homemaking equipment consisted of three oil stoves, four sewing machines, two sinks with necessary pots, pans, cutlery, and a few dishes. Sixteen new chairs were purchased. Summer projects were carried and credit applied for. New chairs and dining table were finished to match. An F. H. A. Chapter was organized. Ten months, 75 per cent vocational.

There were sixteen graduates. (See Appendix, 1944.)

1944-45 Trustees

Jack Inabinet, Pres.

Jno. Allen, Secty.

Ivy McGilvray, T. E. Venable, Terral Marshall, J. D.

Manning, T. W. Winters.

Scholastics	257
Transfers	73
	<hr/> 330

Scholastic Apportionment	\$11,237.95
Tax	5,822.12
State Aid	13,989.15
	<hr/> \$31,049.22

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
O. C. Cook, Superintendent	\$203.55
Miss Ollie Preston	156.25
Miss Ione Connor	160.30
Mrs. Lois Elam	172.05
Mrs. Leota Broyles	163.90
Mrs. Ludie Nell Thompson	162.40
Miss Crystal Upton	163.90
Mrs. Loys Carrigan	174.40
Mrs. O. C. Cook	157.50
Mrs. A. D. Sills, Home Economics	165.10
Paul Hilburn, Vocational Agriculture	221.30

The Vocational Agriculture Department began gradually to acquire books, bulletins, other references, and more and better tools. In the Homemaking Department, ten months 100 per cent vocational. One oil stove was replaced with an electric. The divan was re-finished. Affiliation was granted for 1 unit in Homemaking and $\frac{1}{2}$ unit in Summer Projects, making a total of $26\frac{1}{2}$ units. The Department also conducted a community canning center. The F. H. A. attended summer camp at Gatesville. There were thirty-four graduates. (See Appendix, 1945.)

1945-46 Trustees

Jack Inabinet, President

Jno. Allen, Sr., Secty.

Ivy McGilvray, Euel Venable, T. W. Winters, Terral

Marshall, J. D. Manning.

Scholastics	233
Transfers	78
	<hr/> 311

Scholastic Apportionment	\$11,025.13
Tax	6,985.00
State Aid	14,005.03
	<hr/> \$32,015.16

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
O. C. Cook, Superintendent	\$214.50
Miss Ollie Preston	152.25
Miss Crystal Upton	163.90
Mrs. O. C. Cook	157.50
Mrs. Loys Carrigan	174.40
T. N. Doss	165.00
Mrs. Lois Elam	159.00
Mrs. Leota Broyles	165.00
Mrs. Amber D. Sills, Home Economics	163.60
Paul Hilburn, Vocational Agriculture	221.30
Mrs. Ludie Nell Thompson	162.40

This school term marks the beginning of Special Education for exceptional children in Texas under the directorship of H. E. Robinson. This phase of education was designed to meet the needs of children with physical handicaps of such nature they could be neither safely nor adequately taught in regular classrooms. Six types of children are eligible for special education: those with defective hearing, defective vision, speech disorders, orthopedics, nervous disorders, and lowered vitality.

A special room with special equipment, such as beds, a recordio, books, games, and other teaching devices are provided for exceptional children. These children receive much individual attention and are allowed to progress according to their abilities.

In the Homemaking Department, eleven months, 100 per cent. One oil stove was replaced with a used electric. The Evant School was one of the first five to be placed in twelve-month Homemaking program. Completed construction on living, dining, and bath rooms for the Department was accomplished in this year. Four thousand containers of food were canned in the Center.

There were eleven graduates. (See Appendix, 1946.)

1946-47. Same Trustees.	
Scholastics	193
Transfers	78
	<u>281</u>

Scholastic Apportionment

Tax

State Aid

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
O. C. Cook, Superintendent	178.65
Thomas N. Doss	156.90
Miss Winnie Hampton	136.95
Mrs. Loys Carrigan	147.80
Mrs. Lois Elam	152.50
Miss Ollie Preston	127.95
Mrs. Leota Broyles	140.20
Mrs. A. D. Sills, Home Economics	209.00

Mrs. Ludie Nell Thompson	175.00
Paul Hilburn, Vocational Agriculture	254.50

Hilburn resigned January 8, 1947, and O. B. Graham was elected to fill his place for the balance of the term. The Homemaking Department was placed on a twelve-month 100 per cent vocational schedule. A blueprint was drawn for a new living and dining room addition to this department. Venetian blinds were installed, the divan was re-upholstered, and some new furniture was added. This Department operated a canning center, and the personnel also attended summer camp at Gatesville.

There were nineteen graduates. (See Appendix, 1947.)

1947-48. Trustees	
Jack Inabinet, Pres.	
Elmer Conley, Secty.	
Jack Cates, John Allen, T. E. Venable, J. D. Manning,	
Ivy McGilvray.	
Scholastics	178
Transfers	81
	<hr/> 259
Scholastic Apportionment	\$14,554.60
Tax	6,437.91
State Aid	11,870.42
	<hr/> \$32,862.93
<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
O. C. Cook, Superintendent	294.00
Rodney Love	212.83
Mrs. O. C. Cook	182.00
Mrs. Lois Elam	195.99
Miss Winnie Hampton	189.95
Miss Ollie Preston	180.19
Mrs. Leota Broyles	187.00
Mrs. Ludie Nell Thompson, Special Education	175.00
O. B. Graham, Vocational Agriculture	241.00
Mrs. A. D. Sills, Home Economics	204.80

This year, a Special Education unit was organized in the Evant School, with Mrs. Ludie Nell Thompson as teacher. Mrs. Thompson had special training in this type of work and had charge of forty-two children for part-time training this first year of its inauguration. In the Homemaking Department, the old cook stoves were sold for enough cash to buy and install two electric stoves, a 40-cup coffee urn was installed, freezing of food demonstrations were given, red roses were planted, and all summer projects were carried on. Four F. H. A. girls attended the state meeting at Galveston.

There were twenty-four graduates. (See Appendix, 1948.)

Chapter XII

\$10,000 BOND ISSUE

1948-49 Trustees

Ivy McGilvray, Pres.
Elmer Conley, Secty.
Jack Cates, Woody Burney, L. L. Geeslin, R. L.
Calhoun, J. D. Manning.

Scholastics	178
Transfers	64
Contract with West Point	24

266

Scholastic Apportionment	\$13,514.00
Tax	6,497.59
State Aid	\$13,339.82
	<u>\$33,351.41</u>

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
F. R. Baker, Superintendent	\$335.00
Mrs. F. R. Baker	175.50
Miss Ollie Preston	221.25
Mrs. Lois Elam	221.25
Miss Winnie Hampton	225.00
Mrs. O. B. Graham	271.00
Mrs. Harold Wahler	212.25
Mrs. Ludie Nell Sawyer, Special Education	216.75
Mrs. A. D. Sills, Home Economics	284.60
Rodney Love	228.33
O. B. Graham, Vocational Agriculture	242.35

This year, a \$10,000, 3½ per cent bond issue was voted, to raise funds to build a primary room and a Home Economics room, install Butane gas, buy a football field, and equip it with the necessary lights. In the Special Education room, one pupil received full-time instruction, with thirty part-time pupils.

Mrs. Commo Lovell, a Red Cross nurse who taught the high school girls a course in First Aid and Home Nursing, organized the first group of Camp Fire Girls at the home of Mrs. Bill Smith. The group name chosen was Okiza, meaning, "To be united." Officers chosen were:

Guardian	Mrs. O. Z. Wilson
Assistant Guardian	Mrs. Bill Smith
President	Jeanell Carter
Vice-president	Donna Smith
Secretary	Ann Sills
Scribe	Linda Inabinet

In 1949, a group of nine-year-old girls organized as "Blue Birds" under the leadership of Mrs. Weldon Hodo and Mrs. Melvin Horton. In January, 1950, this group "flew up" to Camp Fires. These girls are the nucleus of the present (1952) group. Also, in 1949, the older girls in Camp Fire formed a separate group, with Mrs. Bill Smith as leader, but soon disbanded. Mrs. Wilson has continued as Guardian, Mrs. Frank Shave being chosen as Assistant Guardian. From June, 1948, to June, 1952, some forty-four girls



Camp Fire Girls
1952

Left to right:

Top Row: Mrs. Frank Shave, Assistant Guardian, Donna Denning, Gladdean White, Mrs. O. Z. Wilson, Guardian, Treva Horton, Sonya Smith.

Bottom Row: Frances Ray, Sue Oney, Lynda Keeling, Jerry Faubion.

have become members, some continuing for as long as three years. Some events enjoyed are:

1949-51 Annual overnight camping trip.

1950 State Fair, Dallas; Brackenridge Park, the Zoo, Witte Museum, and the Alamo, San Antonio.

1951 State Fair, Dallas. Three girls attended Camp Val Verde, near Waco, 10 days.

1952 Radio broadcast, Station KCLW, Hamilton. Seven girls attended Camp Val Verde, 10 days.

Some outstanding services rendered:

- (1) Sending gift parcels to two little Scotch girls, whose father was killed in World War II and whose mother was ill.
- (2) Making and sending dolls through "Foster Parents" organization to orphaned European children.
- (3) Making and sending plate favors to Crippled Children's Hospital, Waco.

- (4) Raising and donating \$30 for work on the school grounds.
- (5) Donating \$35, earned by selling Christmas cards, to Evant Volunteer Fire Department.

This group is now sponsored by the Evant Lions Club.

Also this year, another organization, this time for boys from eleven to fourteen years of age, was sponsored by the Evant Lions Club. The troop committee was Clyde Thompson, O. B. Graham, Elmer Brooks, D. H. Carter, and Elmer Conley. The first charter was granted Troop No. 75 in December, 1948, with five charter members: Willis Henderson, Thomas Lester, Don Smith, Truman Price, and Hollis McGilvray. Floyd Smith was the Scoutmaster and O. Z. Wilson the Assistant Scoutmaster. At this writing the troop under the same leadership has grown to include besides the charter members DeWayne Putnam, Stanley Marshall, Russell Wilhite, Don Lee, John Lee, Wayburn Perkins, Billy Cole Faubion, Jackie Faubion, Paul Hilburn, Jr., Eldon Gholson, Jodie Emory, Irwin Bilberry, and James L. Helms. Activities enjoyed by these boys include camping, swimming, outdoor cooking, woodcraft, leathercraft, woodlore, archery, Indian lore, and many instructive and pleasant outdoor games. In 1951, five boys attended camp eight days at Tahuaya, near Belton. In 1952, eight boys attended.



Boy Scouts, 1952

Back: O. Z. Wilson, Assistant Scoutmaster.

Front: DeWayne Putnam, Stanley Marshall, Paul Hilburn, Jr., Russell Wilhite, Billie Cole Faubion, Lavell Bilberry.

This camp is located on the site of one of the forts on the historical Chisholm cattle trail. In 1951, Hollis McGilvray won the "Order of the Arrow" honor, Willis Henderson winning the same honor in 1952. Also in 1952, Paul Hilburn, Jr., won the merit badge for expert swimming. In 1952 the troop participated in the Scout Circus at Baylor Stadium in Waco, where some five thousand Boy Scouts from over the state were assembled. In July, 1952, the troop attended the annual swim-o-ree, winning second place in swimming.

The Homemaking Department moved into its new quarters, consisting of an all-purpose laboratory, living, dining, bedroom, and bath. The divan was slip-covered, all furniture was refinished, and four unit kitchens were set up and equipped. This Department also assisted in the Good Neighbor Festival.

There were twenty-six graduates. (See Appendix, 1949.)

1949-50 Trustees

Ivy McGilvray, Pres.

L. L. Geeslin, Secty.

R. L. Calhoun, J. D. Manning, Edwin Marwitz,

Woodson Farmer, Monroe Self.

Tax raised to \$1.25.

Scholastics	250
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Transfers	34
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	284
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Scholastic Apportionment	\$15,484.04
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Tax	9,074.01
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Gilmer-Aikin	26,446.05
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	\$51,004.10
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Teacher

Salary

F. R. Baker, Superintendent	\$379.00
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Rodney Love	272.25
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Miss Winnie Hampton	212.25
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Mrs. O. B. Graham	240.75
-------------------	--------

George B. Adams	251.25
-----------------	--------

Miss Ollie Preston	254.25
--------------------	--------

Mrs. Harold Wahler	249.75
--------------------	--------

Mrs. Lois Elam	300.00
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Mrs. F. R. Baker	175.50
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O. D. Calk, Science	200.25
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O. B. Graham, Vocational Agriculture	321.00
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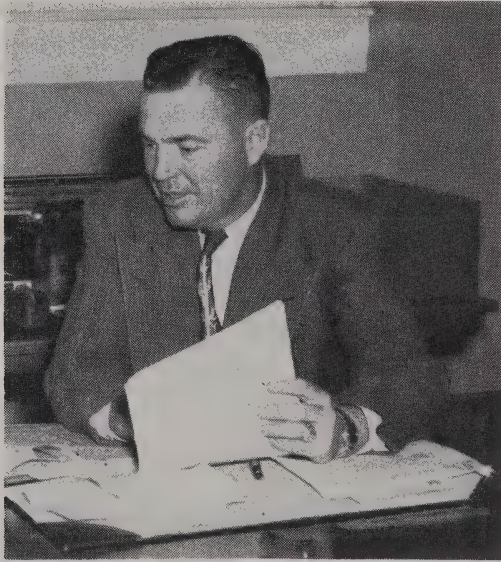
Mrs. A. D. Sills, Home Economics	321.40
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Mrs. Ludie Nell Thompson, Special	245.25
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Mrs. Evelyn Faubion, Music	182.10
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Mrs. Eula Faubion	227.25
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West Point was consolidated with Evant, by action of the County Board. On June 18, 1949, the Lampasas County Board, with County Judge Sylvester Lewis, Secretary, approved a land detachment from Adamsville District 15 and added to Evant Independent



Paul Hilburn,
Superintendent, 1952

School District, which included approximately 1,275 acres, or 1.8 square miles.³¹ Residents and landowners in this area are: J. H. Sneed, P. E. Persons, Mrs. S. L. Boykin, Mrs. L. E. Neeley, Mrs. G. B. Chambers, Wesley Ray, and A. B. Connor. This action was also approved by the Adamsville School Board, H. C. Richardson, President, S. T. Persons, Secretary, as well as by the Evant School Board, Ivy McGilvray, President, and Elmer Conley, Secretary.³² On June 23, 1949, an order was passed by the County Board of Coryell County, grouping Peabody County Line Common School District 94 with the Evant Independent School District.³³ This action was approved by the Lampasas County Board on October 24, 1951.³⁴

Five children received full-time instruction in Special Education, two of whom were unable to attend school. These two were visited and taught in the home, twice each week. Twenty part-time pupils were taught in the Special Education room.

The Homemaking Department bought and installed one new sewing machine, one new iron and board, and completed the installation of venetian blinds. Four F. H. A. girls and two sponsors attended the national convention in Kansas City.

The F. F. A. boys cooperated with the F. H. A. girls in making

³¹Records of the Coryell County Commissioners Court, Book H, p. 116.

³²Records in the office of the County Judge, Lampasas.

³³Records of the County School Board, Gatesville.

³⁴Records in the office of the County Judge, Lampasas.

box drapes for the living room. All summer projects were carried on.

There were twenty-four graduates. (See Appendix, 1950.)

1950-51. Same Trustees, with Homer Allen taking the place of Woodson Farmer.

Scholastics	243
Transfers	38
	<hr/> 281

6 buses in operation.

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
Paul Hilburn, Superintendent	\$387.20
George B. Adams	255.75
Mrs. Lois Elam	304.50
Rodney Love	277.00
Miss Winnie Hampton	254.25
Miss Ollie Preston	254.25
Mrs. Harold Wahler	254.25
Mrs. O. B. Graham (Resigned)	245.25
Miss Wilda McCorkle (Part term)	209.25
Mrs. Eula Faubion	231.75
Mrs. Evelyn Faubion	178.75
O. D. Calk, Science	204.75
Mrs. A. D. Sills, Home Economics	333.00
O. B. Graham, Vocational Agriculture	327.00
Mrs. Ludie Nell Thompson, Special Education	249.75
Scholastic Apportionment	
Tax	
Gilmer-Aikin	

On September 28, 1950, the county school boards of Hamilton and Coryell counties, respectively, reached an agreement whereby 796.7 acres of land located on the northwestern boundary of Evant Independent School District, in Coryell County, were detached and annexed to Shive Common School District, Hamilton County. In exchange, the entire Mason School district, containing 11.6 square miles in Hamilton County, was annexed to Evant Independent School District in Coryell County. This exchange of territory was made to better serve all students involved.

Five children, three at school and two at home, received full-time instruction in Special Education. Twenty others received part-time work in the Special room.

The Homemaking Department purchased and installed one refrigerator, one Dutch-oven range, one automatic washer, and one electric sewing machine. Almarene Smith won the State F. H. A. degree. Fifty students took the course in Home Care of the Sick. Keen interest was aroused in Craft work.

There were twenty-two graduates. (See Appendix, 1951.)

1951-52. Same Trustees.	
Scholastics	258
Transfers	34
	<u>292</u>
<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Salary</i>
Paul Hilburn, Superintendent	\$416.00
Clara Jo Dyche	200.00
Lurine Youngblood	180.00
Eula Faubion	254.25
George B. Adams	260.25
O. D. Calk	209.25
Evelyn Faubion	236.25
Esther Wahler	254.25
Winnie Hampton	254.25
Rodney Love	281.25
Wilda McCorkle	213.75
Ollie Preston	254.25
Mrs. A. D. Sills, Home Economics	339.00
O. B. Graham, Vocational Agriculture	333.00
Ludie Nell Thompson, Special Education	273.00
Scholastic Apportionment	\$16,761.68
Tax	8,079.16
Gilmer-Aikin	31,570.72
Federal Aid for Lunch Room	1,845.21
Vocational Aid Reimbursement	1,179.45
B. and S. Fund	4,777.72
	<u>\$64,213.94</u>
Building Fund	40,250.33
	<u>\$104,464.27</u>

Seven buses were operated, traveling 552 miles per day. Cost of bus operation for nine months was \$14,297.06. The operating cost of the lunch room for nine months was \$8,817.49. The bus drivers received salaries of \$70.00 per month.

Units of affiliation added were 1 in Mechanical Drawing and 1 in Physics, making a total of 28 units. A \$40,000, 2½ per cent bond issue was voted for complete repair of the building, new furniture, and necessary equipment. Five pupils, three at school, two at home, received full-time instruction in Special Education, with twenty others receiving part-time work in the Special room.

The importance of teaching Vocational Agriculture and Home Economics in the public school is being more widely recognized each year, and added emphasis is being given these departments each succeeding term.

Shop work in the Vocational Agriculture Department is designed to teach students how to build and repair simple farm buildings

and equipment, the use and care of farm equipment, and how to build the necessary equipment to carry on production projects. Building of self-feeders for all types of livestock and poultry is a common shop project. Vocational Agriculture is designed to help future farmers develop effective ability to

1. Make a beginning and progress in farming,
2. Market farm products advantageously,
3. Produce farm commodities efficiently,
4. Conserve soil and other natural resources,
5. Manage a farm business, and
6. Maintain a favorable environment.

Two boys have received Lone Star Farmer degrees, the highest given in the state organization, Weston Allen and James Millsap. There has been an average of about thirty-five students each year since its beginning in 1941. This year, the classroom has available for use some 150 books, 250 bulletins, and is completely equipped with hand tools and the following power equipment: Arc welder, bench grinder, drill, circular saw, jointer.

A cabinet filled with trophies awarded in both academic and athletic events bears testimony to the more than satisfactory results of the school's activity in these fields at County and Inter-scholastic League meets, both county- and state-wide. This year,



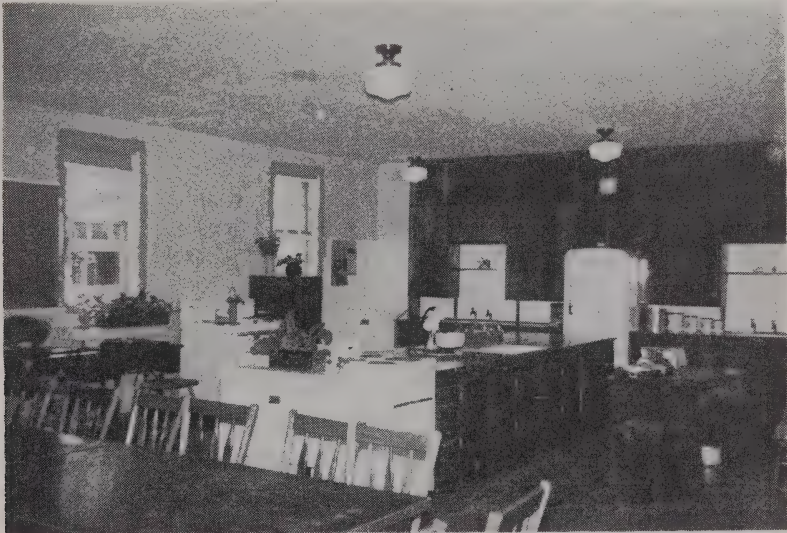
Choral Club, 1952

Left to right: Ann Sills, Betty Marshall, Barbara Webb, Nelda Webb, Deletta Mosley, Martha Helms, Elaine Conley, Hilda Campbell.



Academic and Athletic Trophies.

the school had an organized Choral Club of eight young ladies, who sang on various occasions. This group of girls, Ann Sills, Betty Kay Marshall, Barbara Webb, Nelda Webb, Deletta Mosley, Martha Ann Helms, Elaine Conley, and Hilda Campbell, gave a beautiful rendition of "Ivory Palaces" and "In the Garden" at the Baccalaureate Sermon. For Commencement, they chose "A Perfect Day" and "Now Is the Hour."



Kitchen in Homemaking Department, 1952.

The Homemaking Department purchased and installed a new Maytag Ironer and a new living room suite. The girls also redecorated both the living and dining rooms. The Evant Homemakers were hostesses to the District III F.H.A. meeting on February 5, 1952. They also served dinner for the Lions Club regularly every two weeks. All high school girls take homemaking—45 to 69 yearly. Only one girl graduating since its beginning had no homemaking. The goal of the Homemaking Department: A family centered program, in which needs and interests of each family in the community are taken into consideration in the planning and execution of the program, to the end that all may participate in and realize a more enjoyable and satisfying home life.

Expenditures for repairs, equipment, furniture, and other expenses made in the summer of 1952, using the \$40,000 bond issue of November, 1951, with A. M. Sparks, Contractor, were as follows:

Work on Vocational Agriculture building	\$681.00
Rewiring entire plant	1,186.00
Work on primary building	1,080.00
Bus shop	1,865.83
Bus note	2,054.06
Science equipment	832.85
Legal work	1,125.30
Typewriters	705.00
Steel Lockers	1,461.00
Vocational Agriculture equipment	145.44
Well at football field	884.26
Bleachers	2,992.70
Work on Main building	20,903.56
Furniture	4,645.74
	<u>\$40,562.74</u>

On August 11, 1952, the records in the office of County Judge Sylvester Lewis of Lampasas County show that as of this date the Evant Independent County Line School District contains:

31,026 acres in Coryell County

50,016 acres in Hamilton County

8,948 acres in Lampasas County

or a total of 89,990 acres or $140\frac{39}{64}$ square miles.³⁵

There were twelve graduates. (See Appendix, 1952.)

1952-53 Trustees

Ivy McGilvray, Pres.

L. L. Geeslin, Secty.

R. L. Calhoun, J. D. Manning, Woodson

Farmer, Monroe Self, J. C. Elam.

³⁵Records in the office of the County Judge, Lampasas.

Scholastic Apportionment	\$17,225.00
Tax	12,000.00
Gilmer-Aikin	30,009.00
Transportation	12,324.00
Federal Aid for Lunch Room	1,750.00
	<u>\$73,308.00</u>
Scholastics	240
Transfers	32
	<u>272</u>

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Yearly Salary</i>
Paul Hilburn, Superintendent	\$5,064.00
Rodney Love, Principal	3,654.00
George B. Adams, Elem. Prin.	3,177.00
O. D. Calk, Science	2,790.00
Eula Faubion	3,051.00
Winnie Hampton	3,051.00
Ollie Preston	3,051.00
Esther Wahler	3,051.00
Evelyn Faubion	2,884.00
Mrs. O. B. Graham	3,222.00
Nellie Hymer	2,400.00
Wilda McCorkle	2,619.00
Ludie Nell Thompson, Special Education	3,330.00
Mrs. A. D. Sills, Home Economics	4,068.00
Leslie Sheldon, Vocational Agriculture	2,619.00
Ethel Thompson, Librarian	65.00 monthly.

On October 17, 1952, Mrs. O. B. Graham resigned, and so Mrs. Paul Hilburn took over her work until the Trustees could obtain a teacher to fill the place. Mrs. Humphreys of Hamilton was elected and assumed her duties November 10. This year, two subjects with 1 credit each were added to the curriculum, Chemistry and Shorthand. This addition makes a total of 30 units of affiliation to the credit of the school. The scholastic apportionment for each child for this year was \$65.

Senior Class for 1952-53

Martha Ann Helms	Carl Jones	Curtis Troutt
Ramona Richardson	Gerald Samson	Clevan Millsap
Nelda Webb	Gracie Faubion	Sheldon Perkins
Lavada Atchley	Patsy Wilhite	Gayle Burks
J. B. Anderson	Betty Marshall	Jimmie Keeling
Harold McGilvray	Polly Brown	Lyle Lovelace
John Wentworth		

Again the teachers, students, parents, and community have the inspiration of a completely renovated and modernly equipped

building in which to begin the school year. The plant now consists of a commodious Main building, Vocational Agriculture building, Homemaking Department, well-equipped workshops, bus building, Primary building, study hall, library, and gymnasium. With this modern equipment, the school at Evant has grown into a well-equipped, highly efficient rural high school, and its future is bright indeed for the realization of the hopes of parents, students, and teachers.

Conditions govern all progress and are constantly changing. Hence, both people and institutions must continue to make adjustments to meet new situations, else there can be no improvement attained. It is hardly possible to visualize the changes in the physical aspects of our state in the last one hundred years, much less the educational evolution. For example, in 1854 when Coryell County was organized, records show that there were only 190 school-age children in the county, and the state fund for the county was only \$117.80, exactly .92 per child. In the school year 1949-50, ninety-six years later, there were in the Evant Independent School



Remodeled building, 1952.

District alone, 284 scholastics with an average daily attendance of 255, and the instructional cost per pupil was \$156.74.³⁶ Also, the first school taught in what is now Evant Independent School District boasted the sum total of 9 school-age children. In 1854, there was no transportation, free or otherwise. In 1949-50, there were 6,513 school buses in operation in the state for free transportation, ³⁷ 6 of them in the Evant Independent School District. Compared with the 190 scholastics in Coryell County in 1854, Mrs. Leona Campbell, County Superintendent, reports 3,684 in the county in 1952.

³⁶*Texas Almanac*, 1952-53, p. 426.

³⁷*Ibid.*, p. 421.

In the compilation of this history of the Evant School, the growth of the physical plant has been given detailed and accurate attention, and the educational growth has been traced and enumerated just as carefully, but the fact remains that simple attendance at school, even the possession of a diploma of graduation, are not the major achievement. Most important of all is the use to be made of the knowledge attained that will contribute to good citizenship and the betterment of the future. There is no gain to be had from a treasure in a locked box, but what is being done with it. The record of this school in the accomplishment of its students and graduates is an enviable one. Many entered colleges and universities, earning various degrees, including the Ph.D. In life, they have been representative and outstanding in chosen vocations of law, medicine, various branches of engineering, business administration, the pulpit, and many in the teaching profession.

Education is the door through which one must pass to enter the storehouse of knowledge, and the public school is the key that unlocks that door for millions of boys and girls, who otherwise would be unable to pass its portals. Our public school teachers are the guides and interpreters in this storehouse of knowledge, and no compensation, no greater recompense of reward, can come to the teacher who watches than that look of enlightenment, that glow on a child's countenance, which follows the miracle of under-



Boys Basketball Squad, 1952.

Back row, left to right: Thomas Lester, J. B. Anderson, Bobby Sawyer, Carl Jones, Curtis Troutt, Dale Lovelace, Willis Henderson (Manager).

Front row: Burton Adams, Coach, Harold McGilvray, Lyle Lovelace, Pete Milsap, Travis Wilson, Junior Wagner, Dean Townsend, Bob Brown, Rodney Love, Assistant Coach.

standing. The following list of former pupils have made contribution to the development and growth of their hometown school by exercising their ability in its various teaching positions:

Teacher	Years
Robert S. Griggs	2
Simon Enochs	1
Mattie Hampton Winn	1
Annie Peck	1
Valley Hill Clay	2
J. W. Burney	6
Mattie Hunter Gerald	5
Duson Hunter	4
Annie Sawyer	14
J. P. Gerald	1
R. J. Gerald	5
Ollie Preston	26
W. E. Heatley	1
Mrs. T. V. Curry	1
Laura McNeill Griffin	1
Lillie McNeill Sawyer	2
Lona Gardner Burney	6
Christine Burney Savage	2
Fleta Thompson Sawyer	2



Football Squad, 1951

Back row, left to right: Lyle Lovelace, Buggs Wagner, James Cholson, Wayne Westfall, Pete Milsap, Curtis Troutt, Burton Adams, Coach.

Second row: Henry Oney, Carl Jones, Gerald Samson, Jimmie Keeling, Bobby Sawyer, Thomas Lester, Clayton Freeman.

Front row: Dale Lovelace, Willis Henderson, Dennis Warren, Johnny Faubion, Truman Price.

Nannie Winters Wilhite	1
Bessie Winters McDonald	1
Mabel Winters Culbert	1
Acenith Lane Wilson	1
Helen Warren Hardwicke	3
James D. Carter	3
Kirby Warren	4
Lois Armstrong Elam	11
Ludie Nell Sawyer Thompson	8
Leslie Sheldon	1

The material compensation of this group was small indeed, and remained in their hands only a very short while. But the heritage of time continues to amass a reward that cannot be measured by the materialistic and is known only to those who have striven and sacrificed that others might gain. The most sincere appreciation is due them from children, parents, school, and community, and is hereby expressed with deepest gratitude.

We have now reached a pause in the history of the Evant School. This review of the conditions prevalent at its founding, the difficulties and hardships overcome in its early years, the effort, deter-



Girls Basketball Squad, 1952

Back row, left to right: Ann Sills, Manager, Patsy Wilhite, Martha Helms, Anna Callan, Edith White, Francis Marwitz, Barbara Webb, Hilda Campbell, Bessie Kinsey.

Front row: Mrs. Sills, Sponsor, Louise Brewer, Linda Inabinet, Merlene Limmer, Cleta Mason, Lavada Atchley, Gracie Faubion, Janie Brewer, Rodney Love, Coach.

mination, and cooperation put forth in its steady upbuilding, gives us courage to visualize an even brighter future and faith to believe that no obstacle is too great to be overcome in accomplishing that great objective. If the perusal of this narrative brings pleasure and profit to those who read, and inspiration to the boys and girls of today—helping them to put forth best efforts, not only to maintain present-day standards, but to increase the efficiency and helpfulness of “Our School” for the boys and girls of tomorrow—the aim of the author will have been accomplished and all the effort required in its compilation amply rewarded.

APPENDIX

Class of 1903-04

R. L. Bewley, Principal

Tenth Grade

Linna Burney
Nellie Bowman
Sudie (Longmire) Carter

Walter H. McNeill
Otto Burney

Class of 1921-22

R. J. Gerald, Principal

Tenth Grade Class C

Christine Burney
Lowell Burney
Gladys Preston
Blanche Smith

Woody Burney
James Carter
Madeline Stoddard
Clyde Thompson

Class of 1922-23

W. E. Heatley, Principal

Tenth Grade Class C

Freda Baker
Robbie Marshall

Fred Wall
Clyde White

Class of 1923-24

Miss Ollie Preston, Principal

Tenth Grade Class C

Marjorie Burney
Estelle Smith
Ruby McDonald
Maxine Laughlin

Frank Dutton
J. W. Burney, Jr.
Clifford Ashton
Lillie Smith

Class of 1924-25

Miss Ollie Preston, Principal

Tenth Grade Class C

Minnie Adams
Mae Baker, Salutatorian
Laura Kingsbury
Lila Warren
Juanita White
Ethel Wolfe

J. T. Adams
Clayton Lee
Melvin Long
Lloyd Piper
Thomas Winters
Clyde Young, Valedictorian

Class of 1925-26

S. L. Reeves, Principal

Tenth Grade Class C

Alma McDonald
Leora Smith
Mabel Marshall
Zelma Harkins

Bert Gresham, Valedictorian
James Perkins
Allene Cole
Artie Smith

Class of 1926-27

Tenth Grade, Class C

Class of 1927-28

Eleventh Grade, Class B

S. L. Reeves, Principal

Alma McDonald
Mabel Marshall
James Perkins
Artie Smith

Leora Smith
Zelma Harkins
Allene Cole
Bert Graham, Valedictorian

Class of 1928-29

S. L. Reeves, Principal

Eleventh Grade, Class B

Silvia Graham
Lucile Arnold
Marie Smith
Lucile Elam
Lorena Goff
Annie Lea Sims

Kirby Warren
Thelma Tobin
Knighten West
Elsie Hunter
Ona Dell Ashton

Class of 1929-30

Eleventh Grade, Class B

Laymon Miller, Principal

Evelyn White
 Amy Chumney
 Lucile Gresham
 Lennie Goff, Valedictorian

Felix Broyles
 S. T. Persons
 Violet White
 Ruby West, Salutatorian

Class of 1930-31

Eleventh Grade, Class B

Laymon Miller, Principal

Lowell Williamson
 Foy Singleton
 Evangeline Woife

Terrell Marshall
 R. D. Brown
 Jessie Ward

Class of 1931-32

Eleventh Grade, Class B

P. K. Humes, Principal

Ruby Frasure
 Nora Putnam
 Maudie Thompson
 Sue Ward
 Alene Hyles

William Smith
 Odis Cole
 Moran Warren
 J. M. Smith

Class of 1932-33

Eleventh Grade, Class B

P. K. Humes, Principal

Karen Williams
 Vallie Perkins
 Lucile Marshall
 Ima Flippen
 Hazel Thompson

Dawrman Newton
 James Broyles
 Buck Eppler
 Johnie Myrtle West
 Catherine Flippen

Class of 1933-34

Eleventh Grade, Class B

P. K. Humes, Principal

Lena Smith
 Mary Michael
 Francis Hyles
 Marguerite Allen
 Elma Sneed

Price Ashton
 William McDonald
 Woodrow Sheffield
 Edwin Bull
 James Stevens

*Class of 1934-35*Eleventh Grade
13½ units affiliation

James D. Carter, Superintendent

Katherine Wilder
 Mary Shaw
 Opal Gordon
 Ola Webb
 Jim Sheffield

Willie Dee Warren
 Charles Christian
 Altus Gordon
 Mack Webb
 Rual Warren

*Class of 1935-36*Eleventh Grade
16 units affiliation

James D. Carter, Superintendent

Catherine Austin, Valedictorian, best all-round student
 medal for four years' scholarship.

Irene Conner
 Ione Conner
 Imarie McKinzie
 Bertha Lee

E. J. Conner
 Pershing Ashton
 Truett Allen, Salutatorian
 Claude Giddens

Because the gymnasium was not completed, graduation exercises were held in the Baptist Church. A special song, "Living for Jesus," sung by Acenith Wilson, Velma Brooks, Dean Longmire, and Sudie Carter.

Class of 1937

16½ units affiliation

James D. Carter, Superintendent

Geraldine Curry	Robert L. Calhoun
Zina Mae Chilton	Wilson Shave
Oleta Faye Shave	Keith Brooks
Lu Evelyn Williams	Warren Hardwicke
Eldora McKinzie	Johnnie West
Johnnie Ruth Smith	Elbert Cox
Pauline Spradley	Brents Broyles
Olvie Shaw	Clyde Elam
Willie Nora Michael	Raymond Donald
Meta Frasure	Rowena Blackwell
Yvone Thompson	Naomi Kelly

Class of 1938

B. O. Grant, Superintendent

Dorothy Marie Kelley	Dale Chilton
Erna Ising	Dolan Chilton
Vela Stephan	Ariel Newton
Evelyn Yocham	Wilson Shave
Dorothy Lee Favers	Chester Giddens
Mary Ellen Warren	Theron Horton
Von Dean Winters	Gordon Cook

Class of 1939

16½ units affiliation

B. O. Grant, Superintendent

Vera Bull	Charles Armstrong
Ruth Childers	Paul J. Billingsley
Hazel Christian	W. M. Coalson
Marjory Gholson	R. W. Gholson
Pauline Glaze	Russel Jackson
Novelene O'Neal	Oliver Lindsey
Melba Patterson	Charles C. Longmire
Jessie Fae Sneed	W. T. Perryman
Juanita Spradley	Floyd Ray
Ila Webb	Leslie Sheldon
Mary Lee Wilder	Howard Lee Warren
Hilda Blanche Wilhite	Gerald Armstrong

1939 Football Team

"It takes what we've got;
We've got what it takes."

R. W. Gholson	Oliver Lindsey
Joe W. Jones	Floyd McGilvray
Russel Jackson	Wm. Coalson, Jr.
Gerald Armstrong	Paul J. Billingsley
Marion Neal	James Inabinet
Ralph Stephens	Habert Kelm
J. D. Atchley	Junior Lester
Robert Sneed	Charles Armstrong
Floyd Ray	Albert Hooker
Charles Carter Longmire	Kenneth Preston
Auline Wenzel	Howard Lee Warren

1939 Boys Basketball Team—District Champions

Captain, Oliver Lindsey; Co-captain, Leslie Sheldon

Coach, A. L. McFaddin

Kent Parrish
W. M. Coalson
Floyd McGilvray
Charles Armstrong
Gerald Armstrong
Marion Neal

Joe Walter Jones
Habert Kelm
J. D. Atchley
Paul Billingsley
Auline Wenzel

1939 Girls Basketball Team

Coach, B. O. Grant

Lenora Marwitz
Glen Arnett
Eva Sheldon
Hope Parrish
Juanita Spradley
Dorothy Allen

Mary Lee Wilder
Nora Ella Faubion
Nila Ising
Irene Kelm
Marjorie Cholson
Lorene Kelm

1939 Evant Elks Band

Teacher and Director, Mrs. A. B. Ronald

Bessie Faye Kirsh
Verna Terral
Mildred Cox
James Inabinet
Margaret Putnam
Glen Dale Shave
Harold Wayne Sawyer
Clinton Walker
Bill Ike Manning
J. N. Spradley
Glen Manning
Kenneth Alan Sparks
Mildred DeHart

Robert Norman Hamilton
D. J. Smith
Gerald Armstrong
Charles Carter Longmire
Laverne Alexander
Albert Hooker
Tom Carl Sawyer
Marvin Alexander
McNeill Griffin
Beulah Walker
Doris Jean Sawyer
Ona Lee
Clorece Walker

1939 Rhythm Band

Teacher and Director, Miss Zelma Scott

Robert Lee Kreid
Patsy Ann Drennan
Marion Jean Smith
Weston Allen
Gilma Flatt
Ester Jenson
Peggy Jean Monroe
Marion Cole
Patsene Thompson
Earnest Wigley
Georgia Armstrong
Royce Bailey
Iberia Jo Calhoun
Reta Faye Griggs
James Moore
Ramone Blackburn
Laphane Davenport
Ruby Nell Walker
Durwood Creacy
Katherine Laurence
Von Dean Arnold

James Wesley Nesbitt
Virginia Nell Yocham
James Donald Creacy
Harold Wolfe
Wanda Faye Cox
LaVerne Wilhite
Jeanell Carter
Jim Ned Sawyer
Troy Smith
Lang Wayne Burney
Don Jackson
Douglas Conley
Gladys Rhoades
Carroll Delbert Troutt
Ruby Nell Ballard
James Fowler Glover
Aubrey Kenneth Arhold
Tom Wilton Sawyer
W. D. Brooks
Dorothy Vinghouse

Class of 1940

16½ units affiliation

B. O. Grant, Superintendent

Class motto: Learn to live and live to learn.

Laverne Alexander	Glenn Arnett
Catherine Armstrong	J. D. Atchley
Marie Atchley	Roy Conner
Maxine Bennett	Joe Walter Jones
Novella Dutton	Habert Kelm
Nora Ella Faubion	Junior Lester
Ione Frasure	Floyd McGilvray
Winnifred Hyles	Marion A. Neal
Evelyn Knox	Kent Parrish
Leile Platte	Glyn Dale Shave
Helen Ray	Ralph Stephens
Bessie Sheffield	Jessie Ann Wigley
Virgina Spradling	Auline Wenzel

Class of 1941, May 30th

16 units affiliation

B. O. Grant, Superintendent

Class motto: From school life to life's school.

Dorothy Juanita Coston	Charles C. Massingill
Mary Jane Harris	Vernon A. Stanford
Lowell Dean Kinsey	Lee Gardner Smith
Lenora Marwitz Arnold	McNeill Griffin
Georgia Evelyn Neely	Nila Mae Ising
Clovis Janese Upton	Ina Faye Chilton
Eva Beatrice Sheldon	Dorothy Jean Allen
Norma Faye Flippen	Florence Mae Walker

Class of 1942

16 units affiliation

J. C. Petty, Superintendent

Class motto: "Education makes a people easy to lead but hard to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave."

Myrtle Elizabeth Townsend	Sankey Floyd Latham
Marjorie Van Dora Dew	L. H. Manning
Joyce Whynama Latham	Darwin Stanford
Dorothy W. Elam	Warren Harold Michael
Doris Jean Sawyer	Truett L. Townsend
LaNell Henderson	Edd N. Spradling
Mary Evelyn Brooks	Robert Sneed
Charline E. Faubion	Bobbie Werner

Class of 1943

J. C. Petty, Superintendent

Edna Mae Schrank	Cyril Fieseler
Valeta Faye White	Alton Stanford
Bobbie Jean Moore	Darwin Flatt
Clara Smith	Kenneth Kendall
Willie Marie Hyles	John Doak Farmer
Jim Dan Elam	Kenneth Alan Sparks
Daisy Lee Williams	Floyd Leo Sutton
Joy Meadows	Lonnie Lee Stanford
Margaret Symms	A. J. Wilcox
Hattie Wilder	James Wilcox
Pawnee Jackson	Conrad Upton
Charles Faubion	

Class of 1944

Tillie Adams
Nadine Atchley
Margaret Bowden
Bernita Conner
Mildred Davis
Naomi Green
Florence Massingill
Kathleen Self

O. C. Cook, Superintendent

T. J. Calhoun
Frankie Faubion
Wayne Putnam
W. P. Woods
Doris Ingram
Lou Ella Beal
Mary Laing
Louise Smith

Class of 1945

Joy Arnett
Reta Arnold
Lola Fisher
Bertie Halbert
Ora Lee Hoffman
Jenny Inabinet
Adine Kopp
Louise Kight
Roberteen Kinsey
Jane Latham
Shirley Moreland
Norma Ray Pearson
Vonceil Self
Murline Scott
Faye Sims
Jeanie Stanford
Opal Stanford

O. C. Cook, Superintendent

Glen Ray Bunnell
Wayne Geeslin
Calvin Lindauer
Virgil Price
Erwin Platte
Harold W. Sawyer
Allen Snider
Willy West Sills
Linden Spradling
J. C. Tutor
Irwin Walsh
Troy K. Williams
Doreen Witshorke
Elnora Wagner
Ada Nell Venable
Bonnie Fay Thompson
Juanita Townsend

Class of 1946

Dolores Dew
Ruth Sparkman
Letha Manning
Charlotte Daniel
Lorene Snider
Gene Cowan

O. C. Cook, Superintendent

Frank Lee
H. D. Nicks
Charles Coston
Glen Whatley
Tom Bunnell

Class of 1947

Hazel Bloodworth
Sue Austin
Patsy Onstott
Janelle Smith
Ouita Putnam
Elva Williams
Faye Williamson
Virginia L. Hill
Betty Faubion
Ruby Nell Walker

O. C. Cook, Superintendent

Vivian Baker
W. D. Brooks
Nemire Smith
Curtis Limmer
Aubrey Arnold
Garret Sills
Leonard Limmer
Velma Wagner
Vernon Schneider

Class of 1948

Eva Francis Jones
Colleen Doyle
Laura Jo Rigsby
Vivian Hamilton
Lora Henderson
Alice Wagner
Margie Atchley
Gloria Hart
Nell Farmer
Dorothy Brookshire
Laverne Wilhite
Bertie Townsend

O. C. Cook, Superintendent

Jim Ned Sawyer
Van Robinett
James Milsap
Weston Allen
O. C. Wenzel
Roy Delbert Onstott
Andy Wolfe
Lee Doyle Milsap
J. D. Manning
Keldridge Smith
William Wolfe
Ray Campbell

Class of 1949

Roberta Littlefield
 Jean Walker
 Marie Baker
 Sue Hammock
 Velma Rudolph
 Juanita Marwitz
 Mary Nell Coston
 Lurine Youngblood
 Gilma Flatt
 Jean Smith
 Lela Fae Townsend
 Lila Sue Campbell
 Jeanell Carter—Mid term

F. R. Baker, Superintendent

Douglas Conley
 James Baker
 Talmadge Clem
 Billie Jean Witshorke
 John Hollingsworth
 A. L. McFaddin, Jr.
 Doris Townsend
 Alfred Faubion
 Chesley Coston
 Deward Farrar—Mid term
 Iberia Calhoun
 Dolores Rambo
 Frank Upton

Class of 1950

Earnestine Jones
 Von Dean Flippen
 Annie Murl Journey
 Norma Limmer
 Janet Cummins
 Ramona Blackburn
 Ruth McLean
 Morris Brown
 Hugh Mason
 Chesley Coston
 James Brookshire
 San Myers

F. R. Baker, Superintendent

Deaton Rigsby
 Norris Price
 Bob Wright
 Tom Venable
 Douglas Wilson, Salutatorian
 Ira Baker
 Blake Lovelace, Valedictorian
 Robert Lee Kreid
 Wayne Doyle
 Carleton Fisher
 Joe Ray Swartz
 Jimmy Don Commer

Class of 1951

Bernice Sparkman
 Connie Sue Moore
 Ima Jean Stewart
 Barbara Wilhite
 Rita Daniel
 Vera Mae Buckner
 Gladys Wagner
 Betty Jane Baker
 Nora Rudolph
 Almarene Smith, Valedictorian
 Patsy Drennan

Paul Hilburn, Superintendent

Marvin Wagner
 Billy Ray Self
 S. W. Bunnell
 Jack Manning
 Thomas Earl Winters
 Philip Yows
 Jimmy Davenport
 Herbert Snider
 Travis Tully
 Johnnie Vick, Salutatorian
 Dilbert Donald

Class of 1952

Louise Brewer
 Tressie Bunnell
 Cleta Pearl Mason, Valedictorian
 Ann Sills, Salutatorian
 Junior Wagner
 Roy Dean Townsend

Paul Hilburn, Superintendent

Jerry Adcock
 Bob Brown
 James Gholson
 Merlin Munday
 Henry Oney
 Harry Lee Parr

1952 Girls Basketball Squad

Patsy Wilhite
 Anna Callan
 Frances Marwitz
 Barbara Webb
 Bessie Kinsey
 Linda Inabinet
 Cleta Mason
 Gracie Faubion

Martha Helms
 Edith White
 Hilda Campbell
 Louise Brewer
 Merlene Limmer
 Lavada Atchley
 Janie Brewer

Sponsor, Mrs. Sills

Coach, Rodney Love

Manager, Ann Sills

1952 Boys Basketball Squad

Thomas Lester
Bobby Sawyer
Curtis Troutt
Harold McGilvray
Pete Millsap
Junior Wagner
Bob Brown

J. B. Anderson
Carl Jones
Dale Lovelace
Lyle Lovelace
Travis Wilson
Dean Townsend

Coaches, Burton Adams and Rodney Love

Manager, Willis Henderson

1952 Football Squad

Coach, Burton Adams

Lyle Lovelace
James Gholson
Pete Millsap
Henry Oney
Gerald Samson
Bobby Sawyer
Clayton Freeman
Willis Henderson
Johnny Faubion

Buggs Wagner
Wayne Westfall
Curtis Troutt
Carl Jones
Jimmie Keeling
Thomas Lester
Dale Lovelace
Dennis Warren
Truman Price

